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LD291415 [Editorial Report]

Israel

3-Day Closure of Territories—Arab inhabitants of the territories will not be allowed to leave these areas 29-31 March, and a curfew will be imposed on the Gaza Strip throughout this period, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. Arabs from the territories will be unable to work in Israel during this time and will be prevented from crossing over the Jordan River bridges, though access from the Jordanian side will remain unimpeded.

As for Israeli citizens, only those residing in the territories or those who have a permit will be allowed into the territories during the 3-day period. Movement of Arabs and Israelis inside Judaea and Samaria will be subject to restrictions from local IDF commanders. A related IDF radio report noted that the territories will be designated "closed military zones" during the 3-day period, and journalists will have to coordinate their entry with the IDF spokesman, who will issue a daily press briefing on events in the areas.

In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin viewed these measures as Israel's response to Palestinian plans for "Land Day" on 30 March. "You decided on land day, so let's confront each other and see who is stronger," he told the Palestinians. Rabin also noted that the measures will close the territories to Israeli Arabs. Israel is signaling that it will not hesitate to use "whatever measures, within the framework of the law," to ensure that "violence will never gain," he said.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir likewise viewed the closure of the territories as "essential in order to guarantee security," in remarks carried by the radio. Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron warned that the IDF may close off areas for longer periods if necessary, the radio noted, and he stressed that the longer the riots continue, the "harsher" will be the measures employed against them.

The 3-day closure order was accompanied by a wave of arrests of suspects in the territories, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that another 600 new detainees were registered at one detention center the night of 28 March. An IDF source cited by the radio stated that most of the agitators and activists who organized the riots have now been arrested, and the impact of this is now "noticeable in the field."

Nevertheless, disturbances erupted anew in the Tulkarm area 29 March and seven Arabs were injured when the IDF opened fire to disperse hundreds of rioters, the radio said. In another development, IDF radio reported that two IDF soldiers convicted of burying Palestinians alive were sentenced to prison terms of 7 months and 4 months respectively.

Shamir's Knesset Statement—Without referring directly to Secretary of State George Shultz' meeting with two PNC members, Prime Minister Shamir told the Knesset that Israel takes a "very grave view of the U.S. attempts to establish contacts with PLO people, and PNC members are fully-fledged PLO people." Speaking in a political statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Shamir also asserted that his talks with U.S. leaders gave him "greater certainty" that the principles he presented, based on the Camp David accords, constitute a "reasonable and fair" solution to the problem of the Arabs of "Eretz Yisra'el."

He warned the Arabs in the territories that "Israel will neither surrender nor bend," and it has the power, strength, and will to overcome anyone who rises against it. On the political differences among U.S. Jews, Shamir contended that his U.S. visit helped "contain the damage," and he maintained that the Jewish community expressed support for "Israel and its prime minister," as well as for Israel's efforts to quell the rioting. As for the debate inside Israel, Shamir stressed the "vital importance" of national unity.

'Irangate' Agreement—Israel has agreed to cooperate with the U.S. special prosecutor in the "Irangate" affair in exchange for an agreement not to enforce the U.S. subpoenas on Israeli nationals David Kimche, Ya'aqov Nimrodi, and Al Schwimmer, Jerusalem radio reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Missile, Air, Naval Attacks—Iraq fired three missiles at Qom 28 March and its warplanes raided four Iranian cities, according to military statements carried by Voice of the Masses radio. The targets of the air raids were Kuhdasht, Ilam, Dezful, and Borujerd. A military communique carried by the radio acknowledged the loss of one Iraqi plane over Iran.

For Iran's part, a military communique cited by IRNA reported that the Iranian Army fired three missiles at Mandali, while Iranian long-range artillery shelled Basra and other Iraqi cities. Iranian planes also struck at Iraqi military targets in the "Val-Fajr-10" operational sector, the communique said.

In the Gulf, Iraqi warplanes dealt "accurate and effective" blows against two "very large" maritime targets off the Iranian coast the night of 28 March, according to an Iraqi military statement carried by Voice of the Masses. The Iraqi attacks on shipping followed an AFP report that Iranian gunboats had attacked two supertankers in the southern Gulf earlier the same day.

One of the supertankers was the Liberian vessel "Golar Kansai," which was hit and set on fire while docked at a UAE port, AFP said. Tehran radio cited news agency reports of attacks by "gunboats" on the "Golar Kansai" and on the Danish supertanker "Karama Maersk."

Battlefronts—Tehran radio reported that Iranian troops "totally crushed" an attack in the Faqqeh region by units of Iraq's IV Army Corps aided by "hireling hypocrites," a reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq. Over 1,000 enemy troops were killed or wounded, the radio claimed, and the remnants of the attacking force retreated to their previous positions.

Although monitored Iraqi media have not thus far been observed to mention the offensive, Radio Monte Carlo stated that both the Iraqi command and the Mojahedin-e Khalq have announced offensive operations southwest of Dezful. The Mojahedin-e Khalq reportedly described the attack as their biggest offensive so far inside Iran, claiming that they control 600 sq km in the Shush area, between Faqqeh and Dezful.

Regarding the effect of Iraqi chemical weapons, IRNA disclosed that sons of Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-rafsanjani and Prosecutor General Musavi-Kho'iniha have been hospitalized after being among the victims of Iraqi chemical attacks in the "Val-Fajr-10" sector.

Hostages in Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio linked the recent arrival of an Iranian envoy in Beirut with "secret contacts" between Paris, Tehran, and Beirut to release French hostages Marcel Carton, Jean-Paul Kauffmann, and Marcel Fontaine. As for U.S. hostage Lieutenant Colonel Richard Higgins, the Amal Movement has informed UNIFIL that Higgins is still being held in the Hizballah stronghold of Jibshit, the radio added.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced 28 March in a speech broadcast by Tripoli television that all Libyan military forces will be withdrawn from the Egyptian border. Addressing a rally marking the 18th anniversary of the evacuation of British troops from Tobruk, Col al-Qadhdhafi declared that the Libyan eastern military zone will be "abolished" and the Libyan military concentrations removed, as Libya has "no intention of occupying Egyptian Arab land, or changing the Egyptian regime by force, or forcing Egypt to break its shameful and damaging ties with the Israeli enemy."

While announcing Libya's unilateral withdrawal from the Egyptian border, Al-Qadhdhafi stressed that Libya will not reestablish political relations with Egypt as long as it maintains its relations with Israel and the United States and U.S. policy continues "endangering" the Arab nation and the Palestinian cause. He added that if Egypt enters the Arab League, Libya will leave it.

Col al-Qadhdhafi said he was "astonished" by other Arab states' restoration of relations with Egypt. Suggesting that Egypt may have given them secret information to earn their confidence, Al-Qadhdhafi noted that Libya had not been confided in. However, he added, if Egypt had not given such assurances and their position remained unchanged, then the Arab governments were wrong to restore relations and it would be "inevitable" for Libya to resist this trend. He asserted that Libya has "revolutionary forces" working both "secretly and openly" with the capability to resist this trend and to "destroy regimes and change the map."

While ruling out the restoration of political ties with Egypt, Al-Qadhdhafi proposed that Libya and Egypt cooperate in building a canal from Al-Nubariyah to Tobruk that would join the man-made river at Al-Butnan Plateau. According to Al-Qadhdhafi's plan, Libya would provide the money and Egypt would provide the workers for this project.

Concerning the Palestinian "revolutionaries" in the West Bank and Gaza, Al-Qadhdhafi urged them to take up "covert armed resistance" similar to that waged by the Irish Republican Army in northern Ireland or to stage "civil disobedience and covert peaceful sabotage." He announced that Libya is setting aside "money and capabilities," and that it is in touch with the "unified leadership of the revolution."

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd, speaking in a cabinet meeting, affirmed that Saudi Arabia will continue to implement the "approved defense programs," SPA reported. King Fahd also expressed his thanks and appreciation to "friendly" states which have announced their "denunciation and condemnation" of the Israeli "threats" against the Kingdom and which have warned against the consequences of carrying out "aggression" against any Arab state.

Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali cabled his country's "absolute support" for Saudi Arabia's "legitimate right" to possess the means it deems necessary to "ward off any aggression" and to protect its security and safety, Tunis radio reported. "While strongly condemning blatant Zionist threats," Ben Ali added, "We stress our active solidarity and praise your courageous stand." Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid similarly cabled Algeria's "total and complete solidarity" with Saudi Arabia in the face of the "threats" made by the "Zionist entity," an SPA report noted.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, speaking at a news conference in Baghdad, described any initiative not taking the Palestinian people's national rights into consideration as "impractical," INA reported. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, expressed "satisfaction" with the outcome of the meeting between Secretary of State Shultz and PNC members Edward Sa'id and Ibrahim Abu Lughud, according to Voice of Palestine radio.

Concerning the U.S. stand on the closure of the PLO office in New York, Syria called for the United States to accept UN provisions to refer disputes over the UN headquarters agreement to an arbitration court, Damascus radio reported.

The Syrian Government submitted a memorandum to the International Court of Justice concerning the U.S. closure of the PLO's UN observer mission in New York, the radio reported. The memorandum cited by the radio sets out Syria's legal viewpoint on the U.S. stand, which "violates the provisions and principles of international law."

Afghanistan

President Najibullah appealed to the Afghan people to participate in the upcoming National Council elections, BAKHTAR reported. Noting that this will be the first time that elections are held for the highest legislative organ and that the elections will be by secret ballot, Najibullah asserted that every vote will be a vote for the national reconciliation policy and a rapid solution to the Afghanistan situation.

Najibullah also called on opposition leaders to take part in the elections and reminded them of the Afghan Government's offer of ministry and other "high" posts for opposition leaders.

Meanwhile, four Soviet advisers were killed by a car bomb explosion in Kabul 27 March, according to AFP. The bomb exploded in a busy street frequented by Soviet nationals and other foreigners.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Foreign Ministers Hold Final Session

JN251658 [Editorial Report] Amman Television Service in Arabic at 1244 GMT on 25 March begins a live relay in progress of the 86-minute proceedings of the closing session of the 17th ICO Foreign Ministers Conference from the Royal Cultural Center in Amman.

ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada is seen reading a statement in English with superimposed Arabic translation. Pirzada says: "The Islamic countries have decided to continue solidarity among themselves." He adds: "Mr Chairman, once again I want to express our appreciation and thanks for His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, the monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for sponsoring this conference." After thanking all those who participated in the conference preparations and Jordan for its hospitality, he says: "I would also like to thank all delegation members for the spirit of understanding, cooperation, and forgiveness as well as for disregarding some shortcomings which sometimes appeared in the conference."

At 1247 GMT, the head of the Malaysian delegation delivers a 4-minute speech in English with superimposed Arabic translation. After thanking Jordan for its hospitality on behalf of the Islamic countries in Asia, he says: "We adopted meaningful and realistic resolutions with regard to the future of our organization." The Malaysian foreign minister adds: "We hope that conflicts among the Islamic countries will end. We are determined to proceed with finding solutions to these conflicts."

At 1252 GMT, the Ugandan foreign minister begins an 8-minute speech in English with superimposed Arabic translation. He begins by praising the chairman's "excellent management of the conference" and the "splendid results" reached. He says: "We achieved more than what we needed to make our meetings a success." He adds: "When we meet next time, we hope that the stones used by the people in the occupied territory will be replaced by more effective things." On the closure of the PLO mission to the United Nations, he says: "We should exert our utmost to prevent the United States from killing the United Nations." He adds: "Will we repeat in the coming conference what we have said about the hideous war between Iraq and Iran. Each of the two has its own demands. But, can each of them define its stand in a clear way? We pray to God to make things clear and to reach the truth to avoid what is Worse." He continues: "We must encourage dialogue, discussion, and understanding among the various parties. Was it possible to avoid Iran's withdrawal [from the conference] for example? We should think of this." He concludes by thanking all those who worked to make the conference a success.

The Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs begins his 4-minute address at 1301 GMT. He speaks "On behalf of the heads of the Arab delegations." After thanking Jordan for the hospitality and preparations, he says: "The good results which we have reached honestly express the spirit of Islamic brotherhood which prevailed among the delegates." He adds: "The great results which we achieved mirror the feelings of Muslims throughout the world and their desire to resolve Muslim issues and close their ranks to achieve a prosperous future for the Muslim nation."

At 1305 GMT a 10-minute speech by the head of the Palestinian delegation begins. He thanks the delegates for their support for the Palestinian people and views U.S. assistance to Israel. He says: "The United States, my brothers, is our first and last enemy, world zionism is its tool, and Israel is its base. The United States will not benefit you."

At 1317 GMT, Tahir al-Masri, Jordan's foreign minister and chairman of the conference, delivers an 8-minute speech in which he begins by thanking the Islamic foreign ministers for responding to Jordan's invitation and expressing Jordan's pride in receiving them. He says: "You called your gathering the conference of solidarity with the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people. You carried in your hearts the concerns of our Islamic world and discussed your nation's issues and ambitions." He adds: "The delegations expressed the honesty of your trends and the firmness of your determination. You asserted the determination to bypass all obstacles and overcome all difficulties to reach a unanimity or reconciliation on all the topics discussed and the resolutions reached." This is followed by a 5-minute Koranic recitation.

Al-Masri then concludes the session by saying: "Thus we end our conference. I declare the session adjourned. Thank you all."

'Text' of ICO Foreign Ministers' Final Statement

JN260917 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
26 Mar 88 pp 20-21

[Text] The Islamic foreign ministers have asserted that the Palestine question is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They also asserted that the continuation of the Zionist enemy's occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories and its refusal to withdraw from them as well as its annexation of the holy city of Jerusalem and its declaration of it as its capital, and its annexation of the Golan, are flagrant violations of international law, the UN Charter and resolutions, and international legality.

They welcomed the Amman extraordinary summit resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict and on an international peace conference to resolve the Middle East issue. They reaffirmed that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and is fully entitled to represent them and to independently and equally participate on their behalf in all conferences and activities concerned with the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The final statement issued at the conclusion of the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference expressed the conferees' full solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people's comprehensive popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and their heroic confrontation of the racist and terrorist Zionist violence. They stressed that the expansionist Zionist danger is not only aimed at the Arab confrontation states; it also threatens the region's peoples and states, as well as world peace and security. The conference expressed its deep concern over the Zionist enemy's continuation of its racist and expansionist practices and the escalation of its terrorist and repressive operations against the Arab citizens in the occupied territories.

The statement condemned the Iranian pilgrims' subversive acts and riots in Mecca. It expressed its solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its full support for the measures it is taking to provide an appropriate atmosphere and prevent any encroachment on the sanctity of the house of God and the Muslims' feelings. It also rejected any rioting in the holy places that would undermine the security and safety of pilgrims and the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The following is the text of the final statement:

In response to a gracious brotherly invitation extended by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during the 5th Islamic Summit Conference in Kuwait in January 1987, the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference—the session of Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian people's uprising—was held in Amman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, from 3-7 Sha'ban, 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 21-25 March 1988. The following states participated in the conference:

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the UAE, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Uganda, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the State of Bahrain, the State of Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the People's Republic of Benin, the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Chad, the Republic of Tunisia, the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Gambia, the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Somalia Democratic Republic, the Republic of Iraq, the Sultanate of Oman, the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Palestine, the State of Qatar, the Republic of Cameroon, the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Lebanon, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the Republic of Maldives, the Republic of Mali, Malaysia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Niger, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the YAR, and the PDRY.

The following sub-organizations, affiliated with the ICO, participated in the conference:

The Islamic countries' Center for Statistical, Economic, Social, and Training Research in Ankara.

The Islamic Center for Technical and Vocational Training and Research in Dacca.

The Islamic Center for Trade Development in Casablanca.

The Islamic Institution for Science, Technology, and Development in Jidda.

The Islamic Law Organization in Jidda, and the International Committee for Safeguarding the Islamic Heritage in Istanbul.

The following attended the conference as observers:

a. 1. The Turkish Cypriot sect. 2. The Moro National Liberation Front.

b. The following international organizations:

The United Nations; the Nonaligned Movement; the Arab League; the FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees; the UN Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; and the International Governmental Committee for Combating Drought in the African Plain.

The Islamic Bank for Development; the Islamic Organization for Education, Science, and Culture; the Islamic Chamber for Trade, Industry, and Commodities' Exchange; the Islamic International News Agency; the Organization of the Islamic Countries' Radio Stations; the Islamic Capitals and Cities Organization; the Permanent Fund for Islamic Solidarity; the Sport Union for the Islamic Solidarity Games; and the Association of Arab, Islamic, and International Schools.

The Islamic World League; the World Islamic Call Society; the International Association of the Islamic Banks; the European Islamic Council; the Islamic Committee for the International Crescent; and the Islamic World Conference.

The Afghan mujahidin.

His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, the monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, inaugurated the conference. In his opening speech, his majesty welcomed the foreign ministers and the participants in the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference.

His majesty said that they are meeting to discuss the various concerns of the Islamic nation. His majesty added that a nation with such concerns should unite its capabilities, coordinate its efforts, liquidate its differences, polish its sons' skills, and employ all its resources for the wellbeing of all its sons.

His majesty noted that resolving local disputes today is linked with regional balances and that one regional problem cannot be separated from another. These and other aspects and facts mirror the global development and change. His majesty added that the phenomenon of globalism, which distinguishes this era, calls for strengthening the bases of regional and international organizations.

His majesty added that the ICO, under whose umbrella the conference convenes, should be first a rostrum for earnest dialogue among the member states and then a party to effective dialogue with the other international organizations and gatherings so that it will take its prominent position in the interest of Islam and Muslims.

His majesty added that the policy of settlement colonialism practiced by Israel is a phenonmenon which is no less perverse from the policy of racial discrimination being pursued by the government of South Africa, condemned by the Arabs and Muslims and opposed by all available methods.

His majesty added that the Palestinian people's uprising is not an end in itself nor is it a transient event. It is rather an expression of the will of the entire people to struggle for its freedom and right to self-determination on their own land. His majesty added that the Palestinian people have a rightful claim on us to support them and help them attain their objective on the regional and collective levels so that the uprising may bear fruit.

His majesty said that Jordan's role in supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people is known. On the collective level, he added, Jordan is committed to the Arab summits' resolutions which call for a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that the diplomatic and political efforts should be directed toward the crystallization of a firm international stand toward convening the international peace conference under the UN auspices in which all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people should participate on an equal footing.

His majesty described the Iraq-Iran war as a deep wound in the body of the Islamic nation. He expressed the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran would accept Security Council Resolution 598 in accordance with the sequence of its clauses in order to spare the blood of the two Muslim peoples, put an end to the depletion of the nation's resources, and restore security and stability to the Gulf region so Muslims can channel their efforts and capabilities in the proper direction.

In his review of the Afghan issue, his majesty said he hopes that now that the USSR has announced its readiness to withdraw from Afghanistan, the Afghan brothers would not lose this opportunity to restore stability to their country and to work for its development as well as resume their role in the world as an independent nonaligned state and an active member of the ICO.

His majesty concluded his speech by wishing the conference complete success in its work.

The foreign ministers of Bangladesh, Niger, and the PDRY commented on His Majesty King Husayn's speech on behalf of the Asia, Arab, and African groups. All three expressed their appreciation for his majesty's inspiring speech and sincere defense of Islamic causes. They also praised his wisdom and clear vision and assessment of the various challenges facing the Islamic nation and expressed their conviction that his speech will be the beacon guiding the conference. The three foreign ministers also expressed their appreciation for the fraternal, kind hospitality accorded to all the delegations and the excellent preparations made for the conference under the patronage of His Majesty King Husayn. The conference unanimously decided to consider his majesty's speech as an official document of the conference.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali made a speech in his capacity as chairman of the 16th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference. He expressed his appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn and the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their efforts in hosting the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers conference. He also praised His Majesty King Husayn's inspiring speech at the beginning of the conference. He added that the intervening period between the two conferences has witnessed events and developments which have had both positive and negative effects on the issues of the Islamic world.

In the field of joint Islamic action, he said, that period witnessed the convocation of the fifth Islamic summit and the meeting of the Jerusalem committee under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II. That period also witnessed the convocation of an emergency meeting of the Jerusalem committee in support of the Palestinian people's uprising against the criminal Israeli occuaption. The Moroccan foreign minister praised the heroism of the defenseless young sons of the Palestinain people who are sacrifcing their lives for the sake of freedom. The minister said that the conflict between Iraq and Iran has not stopped despite all efforts to terminate it. He pointed out in this respect the need to implement Security Council Resolution 598 and expressed the hope that the war would stop so the Muslim peoples of Iraq and Iran would live in peace. The Moroccan foreign minister wished the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference complete success in its delibeations.

ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada delivered a speech in which he thanked His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal for sponsoring the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference and for his inspiring speech at the opening session. He said the uprising of the defenseless Palestinains in the occupied West Bank and Gaza against occupation and for the sake of asserting their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence is the main event of 1988. He added that Israeli brutality by killings and mass arrests has not succeeded in suppressing the defenseless Palestinian youths' resolve. On the contrary, such brutality has aroused world conscience.

He added that Israel continues to insolently reject all efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. Year after year, Israel has continued to reject the international community's proposal to hold an international peace conference. Nevertheless, the international community remains powerless in view of the full and unconditional aid the United States is extending to the Zionist entity.

He added that the Soviet Union has apparently been convinced after an 8-year occupation of Afghanistan that it is futile to continue to occupy that country. Therefore, it made some signals on its readiness to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan once certain conditions are available. Since negotiations on the Soviet withdrawal are now in a critical turning point, the Islamic Conference should continue its support for Pakistan and the Afghan resistance movement as a guarantee for the return of durable peace to Afghanistan.

He added that the Iran-Iraq conflict continues to be a source of deep concern for the Islamic nation. This conflict was stepped up by the so-called "war of cities," which killed many civilians. Although the ICO exerted its utmost efforts, just like the international community represented by the United Nations, no sign emerged in the horizon predicting a near end to this war. Accordingly, the conference should look into new means to end this regrettable war.

He added that the illegitimate racist regime in Pretoria is still practicing the ugliest forms of racial segregation and discrimination and colonialism in South Africa and Namibia. He added that the ICO fully supports the peoples of Namibia and South Africa in their struggle for independence and autonomy.

He added that the African continent has for several years been suffering from a severely critical economic situation and the Sahel region states are also suffering from drought. There are several other problems facing the Islamic world, including the situation of Islamic communities in non-Islamic countries and the issue of terrorism. On the economic level, the Islamic states are facing the problem of the sharp decline of the U.S. dollar with the resultant grave consequences on these states' economies. Moreover, the decline in the prices of raw materials and the increase of protectionist restrictions imposed by the industrialized world states on the developing states' exports have become a source of great worry for the developing Islamic states. The Islamic states have no alternative but to diversify their economic base, attain integration among themselves, and increase cooperation in the various sectors of economic activity.

He added that the Islamic world is still a target of hostile campaigns in the western news media and has not yet found a successful way to reply to these overt and covert campaigns. In the field of culture, he said, the ICO and its members exerted efforts to contain and defeat the forces that are hostile to Islam, but the available resources to achieve this noble goal are continuously diminishing.

The secretary general said the Islamic world should forge its way ahead with unified ranks and armed with faith in God the almighty and with its confidence in its intrinsic powers instead of relying on the help of foreign forces.

The conference then unanimously elected His Excellency Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as chairman of the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference. Following his chairmanship of the session, Tahir al-Masri delivered an opening speech in which he thanked the ministers for electing him as chairman. He welcomed them to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and said that the Islamic world's preoccupations have not ceased since the first Islamic conference in Rabat 19 years ago. He added that the ICO has turned the Palestine question into a permanent topic on its agenda. He expressed the hope that the ICO will devote all efforts to support the Palestinian people's confrontation of the Zionist occupation forces.

Al-Masri added that the 17th conference is being held within the sight and hearing of the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory, where young people equipped only with faith in God are confronting the criminal occupier, thereby proving anew that force does not triumph. The breaking of their bones and the spilling of their innocent blood has not stopped them from confronting the soldiers of tyranny.

The minister said that foreign forces are interfering in the affairs of the Islamic world and sowing the seeds of sedition and conflict in different parts of this world. He noted in this respect the Iraq-Iran war, which has entered its 8th year, is a war in which Muslim lives are being killed by Muslim hands and Muslim property is being destroyed. He added: Yet, we all know that neither side stands to gain from this war. The minister pointed out in this respect that the overwhelming majority of Muslims and the world community of nations support Security Council Resolution 598. The minister called on the conference to discuss every means leading to the implementation of that resolution in order to achieve its

objective and reach an acceptable settlement of this problem through the contacts that are taking place. He said the conference is also dutybound to exert every effort to guarantee the right of the Afghan people to see their country an independent homeland free of any foreign presence or interference and enjoying an Islamic Afghan identity.

The chairman of the conference said that the problems of Muslim society have not preoccupied the conference from the issues of other parts of the world. He noted in this respect the Islamic nation's support for the independence of Namibia and its rejection and condemnation of the odious apartheid policy pursued by the racist Pretoria regime, a policy that corresponds with the racist Zionist regime's policy in Palestine.

He said the Islamic countries are aware of the difficult economic conditions experienced by the African continent which have been accentuated by the drought henomenon. He affirmed that the Islamic countries will continue to extend the hand of assistance and support to their African brothers.

The chairman of the conference referred to the ICO's responsibilities in preserving and consolidating Islamic culture and protecting Islamic heritage from the alien values threatening it. He said the organization is dutybound to protect Islamic heritage, being the beacon guiding mankind, so Islamic civilization will remain the civilization that has honored man and spread justice, equality, and tolerance. The chairman affirmed that enhancing the ICO's credibility and efficiency calls for adopting all the necessary measures, even if they are difficult, by eliminating repetitious or similar things and also reorganizing and restructuring the ICO so that its word will not be ignored by the friend and its earnest willpower will not be slighted by the enemy.

The conference elected the Senegal, Malaysia, and Palestine representatives as vice chairmen of the conference. It also elected Morocco as rapporteur general, as in the case of previous conference.

The conference heard a message by the secretary general of the United Nations which was read on his behalf. The message says that the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference is being held at a time when the major political issues facing the ICO have become the main concerns of the United Nations. The escalation of the war of cities between Iran and Iraq has made it clear that putting an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war under Resolution 598 cannot be futher delayed.

Moreover, the developments in the territories occupied by Israel is also a painful reminder of the tragedy of the Palestinains under occupation and the need to find a solution to the Palestine question. The uprising has generated a new feeling about the need to expedite efforts to convene an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of all the parties concerned in order to reach a just and lasting comprehensive settlement under Security Council Resolutiosn 242 and 338, while taking into full consideration the Palestinians' legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination. The secretary general of the United Nations expressed regret over the United States' issuance of legislation which, if implemented, would suspend the work of the PLO's permanent mission to the United Nations.

The UN secretary general said that the situation in Lebanon, particularly in the south, is still a source of concern for him. He also hoped for the success of the current round of negotiations in Geneva on the situation in Afghanistan. He then discussed the policy of racial discrimination being practiced by the Government of South Africa, and said: In addition to the fact that this policy violates the principles of equality, the situation has exacerbated as a result of the South African Government's measures to quell all forms of opposition and its refusal to implement the UN plan on Namibia's independence. The UN secretary general added that the situation in Cyprus continues to be a source of worry for him and that he will continue his efforts to help the parties reach an agreement.

The conference then held a closed session during which the conferees listened to a report on the senior officials' meeting as presented by His Excellency Nabih al-Nimr, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and chairman of the senior officials' meeting. The conference adopted the report and the agenda attached to it.

The conference also adopted the report presented by the ICO secretary general on the General Secretariat's activities in the period between the 5th Islamic Summit Conference and the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference. The conference unanimously agreed to call the 17th session the session of Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian people's uprising. The participants then said prayers for the souls of Palestinian martyrs.

The conference also adopted a declaration praising the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied lands of Palestine and expressed its full support for and solidarity with them in their brave confrontation of the Zionist occupation. The declaration stated that this heroic uprising has created a new situation and exposed Israel's fascist practices and its hostile and expansionist aims. It added that the uprising has convinced the international community of the justice of the Palestine question and of the need to end the Israeli occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem.

The declaration also strongly condemned the Israeli forces' terrorism, repression, and shedding of the Palestinian people's blood. It appealed to all international and regional organizations to contribute toward the attainment of a just

and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The declaration reaffirmed the member states' determination to lend material, moral, and political support to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and to the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

The conference also adopted a declaration of solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in which it condemned the Israeli military threats against the Kingdom and the Islamic holy places, stressing that they constitute a flagrant violation of the UN Charter. The conference emphasized the Islamic world's full support for the safety and security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against the Zionist entity's threats.

During the general discussion, the heads of delegations dealt with the problems facing the Islamic nation and stressed the need to resolve them for the progress of the Islamic nation. They also stressed the need for the solidarity of the Islamic nation which should rise above differences and disputes.

With brotherly feelings, the conferees listened to the statement delivered by Kenan Atakol, in which he expressed the just cause of the Muslim Turkish Cypriots. The conference reasserted its previous resolutions on the Cypriot issue and voiced its support for the UN secretary general's efforts to reach a just and lasting solution. The conference praised the Muslim Turkish Cypriot people's cooperation with the UN secretary general's efforts, the latest of which were his proposal on the framework agreement dated March 1986. The conference also stressed that it will continue to support the Muslim Turkish Cypriot people's efforts to obtain their just rights and restore a status equal to that of the Greek Cypriots. The conference called for strengthening solidarity with the Muslim Turkish Cypriots.

The conference listened with sympathy and understanding to the speech delivered by the representative of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin which shed light on the just struggle of the Afghan people for the sake of liberating their homeland. The Islamic conference urged continued support for the Afghan Mujahidin.

The conference also heard the speech delivered by Nur Misauri, leader of the Moro National Liberation Front, who informed the conference about the failure of the negotiations between the front and the Philippine Government in accordance with the provisions of the Tripoli Agreement of December 1976. Misauri urged the conference to continue its support for the cause of the Moro people.

The conference was informed of the results of the emergency session of Jerusalem Committee which was held in Ifrane, Morocco, on 5 January 1988 under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. The conference was also informed of the committee's report and recommendations. The conference expressed its appreciation for the report and gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II for his continuous suport for Muslim issues, especially the issue of holy Jerusalem.

The Turkish delegation informed the conference of the work of the third meeting of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation which is headed by His Excellency President Kenan Evren of Turkey. The conference was also informed of the Standing Committee's report. The conference recorded its appreciation for the report.

The conference decided to elect the following member states to the Financial Control Board: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Tunisia, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

A special session was held during the conference to announce the donations made by the delegations of Jordan, Pakistan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, and Brunei Darussalam. The conference expressed its profound appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for donating $6 million to the Islamic Solidarity Fund, $2 million to the Jerusalem Fund, and $2 million to other activities carried out by the ICO.

The conference hailed with honor and pride the heroic uprising of the Palestinian Arab people against the forces of the criminal Israeli occupation in defense of their homeland and inalienable national rights. The conference reaffirmed the Islamic states' firm stand in support of the Palestinian people in their continuous struggle until the complete withdrawal of the Israeli enemy forces from all the occupied Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem. The conference also affirmed its rejection of any partial or separate settlement that overlooks the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people or the PLO, their sole, legitiamte representative. The conference condemned Israel's expansionist policy and continuous occupation of Arab territories. It denounced Israel's oppressive methods and violation of human rights as well as its imposition of strangulating economic measures on the inhabitants to force them to stop their brave uprising.

The conference expressed its regret over U.S. policy which ignores the PLO and gives support to Israel. The conference entrusted the secretary general to hold contacts with the secretary general of the United Nations and other regional and international organizations in an effort to implement Security Council Resolutions 605, 607, and 608 and the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention' of 1949 concerning the protection of civilians in times of war. The conference decided to form the "Palestine Support Committees" [Lijan Linusrat Filistin] in all parts of the Islamic world in solidarity with the Palestinian people and to provide them with material and moral support.

The conference also decided to ask the information institutions of the member states to give wider coverage to the reports on the uprising in occupied Palestine. The conference entrusted the General Secretariat and the Union of Islamic Broadcasting Stations to prepare a special information program on the Palestinian uprising in order to deep the awareness about the Palestinian people's struggle. The conference called for exerting every possible effort with official and information quarters in non-member states to condemn Israel's racist crimes and to organize an international campaign to condemn Israel and expose its practices and plans.

The conference affirmed the need for the state members to exert intensive efforts to make Israel respect the UN resolutions aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This peace should be based on complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including Jerusalem; and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on their national soil with Jerusalem as their capital under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

The conference reiterated the previous resolutions, the last of which were the Kuwait summit resolutions. These resolutions state that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and that the PLO alone has the complete right to represent the Palestinian people or to participate on their behalf independently and on an equal footing in all conferences and activities on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The conference also affirmed the need for exerting continuous efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace through the convening of an effective and full authoritative international conference to achieve peace in the Middle East under the UN auspices. The UN secretary general should call for this conference and it should be held with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with all concerned parties. This is the way to achieve a just, comprehensive, and peaceful settlement which will guarantee the return of occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, the resolution of the Palestinian question with all its aspects, and the recognition of the Palestinian people's national, inalienable rights.

The conference adopted a resolution in which it reiterated that Israel's decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan and impose Israeli laws, sovereignty, and administration over it is illegal and is negated. Israel's decision also constitutes a blatant violation of the UN Charter and resolutions to this effect and of international law.

The conference denounced Israel's efforts to change the legal status of the Golan and its population structure. It called for the imposition of binding and comprehensive sanctions on Israel to force it to retract this decision.

The conference greeted with pride the Arab people in Palestine, Golan, and southern Lebanon for their brave and heroic resistance in the occupied Arab territory. The conference expressed its appreciation for all peace-loving peoples, governments, organs, organizations, and personalities in the world for condemning the repressive terrorist Israeli measures and exposing them before world public opinion.

The conference also expressed its appreciation for the support given by the Islamic countries to this struggle. It called for encouraging the popular initiatives aiming at assisting this struggle and expanding it.

The conference denounced all attempts to contain, abort, or stop the uprising to achieve partial and defeatist settlements. The conference called on the Security Council to shoulder its full responsibility with regard to the Israeli occupation authorities' violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention and their commiting of war crimes such as the killing and torturing of Arab citizens, the inhuman treatment, deportation, arrests, expulsion, and displacement. The conference asked the General Secretariat to observe and follow up the serious violations committed by the Israeli occupation authorities—the violations which are considered war crimes and crimes against humanity. The conference also asked the General Secretariat to draw the attention of the UN secretary general to these violations so as to prepare documents on this subject to be distributed as documents of the UN General Assembly.

The conference denounced the continuation of the Israeli enemy occupation of Lebanese lands and its inhuman practices in the occupied territory, including its resort to terrorism and forceful deportation in preparation for annexing these lands.

The conference praised the national Lebanese resistance against the Israeli enemy in southern Lebanon and to the west of Al-Biqa'. The conference appealed to the United Nations to force Israel to implement Security Council resolutions regarding the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon to the internationally recognized border and respect Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The conference condemned the strategic alliance agreement concluded between the United States and Israel in November 1981, and the United States' supply of Israel with unlimited quantities of modern weapons and equipment. The conference expressed the belief that this alliance enhances the hostile nature of the expansionist Tel Aviv regime and hampers the efforts aimed at establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, in addition to the threat it poses to the Islamic states.

The conference denounced the U.S. decision to close the PLO Information Office in Washington and its UN mission office in New York, considering this decision an attempt to deprive the Palestinian people of their legitimate right to present their just cause to the international community through the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The conference also considered this decision a flagrant violation of the headquarters agreement signed between the United States and the United Nations. The conference expressed its support for the UN secretary general's efforts to guarantee the United States' abidance by the headquarters agreement in a bid to prevent the closure of the PLO office in New York.

The conference declared that Israel is not a peace-loving state and that it failed to fulfill its commitments as stipulated in the UN General Assembly's Resolution 323 of 1949, according to which Israel became a UN member. The conference also stressed the need to reject the Israeli delegation's credentials which allow it to attend the various UN General Assembly sessions.

The conference expressed its concern over the Israeli nuclear armament which threatens the region's security. The conference appealed to the international community to condemn Israel for its refusal to join the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty, in addition to its refusal to abandon the policy of possessing nuclear weapons and its continued refusal to implement the Security Council Resolution No 484 of 1981 and the resolutions passed by the General Assembly and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. These resolutions call on Israel to subjugate all its nuclear installations to the Agency's controls. The conference condemned Israel's collaboration with South Africa in the field of nuclear armament and reaffirmed the member states' determination to continue their cooperation in all international forums to force Israel to abide by the international resolutions. It called on the disarmament conference and the IAEA to work out an international treaty banning military attacks on nuclear installations.

The conference regretted some states' resumption of diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy as this conflicts with the ICO and the OAU ministerial council resolutions. It called on the states which resumed their diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy to reconsider their decision. It also called on the states which intend to resume or establish diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy to reconsider their plans.

The conference decided to establish cooperation and coordination between the Islamic countries' military leaderships and the PLO with the aim of bolstering the Palestinian people's just struggle to liberate their occupied homeland, Al-Aqsa Mosque, and holy Jerusalem.

The conference called on the member states to implement the provisions of the Islamic boycott of the Israeli enemy and abide by the boycott principles.

The conference approved the plans and programs of the Islamic experts committee in charge of confronting the dangers of the Zionist colonialist settlement in Palestine in order to enable the Palestinian people to hold out on the soil of their occupied homeland and restore their inalienable national rights.

The conference decided to back and boost the efforts being exerted by the committee in charge of monitoring the Zionist enemy's moves to implement the adopted plans and programs aimed at confronting the Zionist enemy's attempts to break out of the isolation imposed on it.

The conference appealed to all Islamic countries to help raise the capital for the Jerusalem Fund and the Jerusalem Endowment Fund, each of which totals $100 million, and called on them to pay their contributions to both funds.

The conference decided that all Islamic states should continue to issue the Palestine stamp as long as the Palestine and Jerusalem issues remain unsolved. The proceeds should be deposited in the account of the Palestinian Welfare Association.

The conference decided that a unified curriculum on the history and geography of Palestine should be a compulsory subject in schools at all levels in all the Islamic states.

The conference affirmed its commitment to implementing the Islamic working program as approved by the third Islamic summit conference for confronting the Zionist enemy, and reiterated its commitment to regard the cause of Palestine and holy Jerusalem as the first cause of Islam and Muslims. The conference condemned the Israeli occupation authorities' crimes and continuous violations of the sanctity of the holy shrines, particularly Al-Aqsa Mosque. The conference reiterated its determination to preserve the Islamic and Arab character of Jerusalem and to restore it to Arab sovereignty. The conference voiced its rejection of the Israeli decision to apply Israeli law in holy Jerusalem and impose Israeli rule and administration on it. The conference considered this decision illegal, and null and void.

The conference praised the stand adopted by the Papal Office toward the issue of holy Jerusalem and called on the member states to continue their contacts with the Papal Office and other Christian bodies with the aim of adopting a unified Muslim-Christian position concerning holy Jerusalem. The conference called on the member states to deepen the public's awareness of the issue of Palestine and holy Jerusalem, especially in the United States and West Europe, and called on the member states to sign fraternity agreements between their capitals and holy Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, in support of Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The conference called on the member states to adhere to implementing all of the resolutions and recommendations of the Jerusalem Committee, including the resolutions and recommendations which the committee issued at its emergency session in Ifrane, Morocco, on 5 January 1988.

The conference denounced the riots and destruction perpetrated by the Iranian pilgrims in holy Mecca during the pilgrimage of 1407 of the hegira [1987], and voiced its full solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its full support for the Kingdom's measures to provide an appropriate atmosphere for the guests of God to enable them to perform the pilgrimage rights in safety and humility. The conference reiterated Saudi Arabia's right to take any measures it deems necessary to prevent a repetition of riots and anarchy, given its responsibility to preserve law and order and protect the holy shrines and the safety of the pilgrims.

After taking cognizance of a memorandum presented by the Saudi Arabian Government pertaining to new projects to expand the holy shrines and improve the buildings which house the pilgrims, the conference supported limiting the number of pilgrims from the Islamic states and groups, based on their respective populations and numbers. The conference asked the ICO member states to cooperate with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all matters concerning the adoption of the appropriate measures ensuring equal opportunities for all those who seek to perform the pilgrimage in a proper manner.

The conference voiced support for UN Security Council Resolution No 598 of 20 July 1987 concerning the Iraq-Iran conflict, emphasizing the need to implement it as an indivisible whole and apply its provisions in the same order in which they appeared in the text of the resolution. The conference reiterated the need to cease all military operations immediately, withdraw forces to the internationally recognized borders, and exchange the prisoners of war after a short time from the cessation of hostilities with the aim of ending the prisoners suffering as soon as possible. The conference urged the Security Council to take the necessary measures against Iran for its failure to declare its acceptance of Resolution No 598. The conference asked the member states to exert concerted efforts to end the war.

The conference again expressed profound concern over the continued foreign military interference in Afghanistan and over the great suffering being experienced by the Afghan people, including the 5 million refugees in Pakistan and Iran. The conference again demanded that all foreign forces immediately and unconditionally withdraw from Afghanistan. The conference welcomed [CPSU Central Committee] General Secretary Gorbachev's statement declaring the Soviet Union's plan to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan. The conference expressed hope that a comprehensive political solution will be quickly attained.

The conference lauded the Afghan people's heroic struggle to liberate their homeland and expressed its support for the appreciation of the role being played by the Afghan mujahidin alliance to have Afghanistan restore its status as an independent and nonaligned Islamic state. The conference agreed that the formation of a transitional government with a wide basis is an indispensable factor in restoring peace and providing an appropriate atmospehre that will ensure the repatriation of the Afghan refugees and the Afghan people's right to choose their own economic, political, and social structures without outside interference.

The conference requested that the Islamic Development Bank study the requirements of Afghanistan's economic reconstruction and work out specific programs so that the bank, along with member states, can participate in economic reconstruction in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of foreign troops.

The conference reaffirmed that the security of any Islamic state is of interest to all Islamic states. It expressed determination to enhance the Islamic states security through cooperation and solidarity among them. The conference voiced the Islamic states determination to safeguard Islamic values and the Islamic way of life. It requested that the ICO secretary general form a team comprising five prominent personalities to study arrangements to boslter confidence and security among the Islamic states. The ICO secretary general should submit the results he attains to the 18th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference.

The conference issued a resolution on the border dispute between Libya and Chad. The resolution asks both parties to refrain from carrying out any action bound to aggravate the situation. It affirms that the OAU is the natural framework to resolve this dispute and voices full support for this organization.

The conference denounced the continued U.S. aggression and conspiracies against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and expressed support for the Jamahiriyah's right to demand compensations for the damages it sustained as a result of the U.S. aggression. The conferecne reaffirmed its solidarity with the Jamahiriyah in defending its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity vis-a-vis the economic boycott measures which seek to undermine the Jamahiriyah's development plans. It denounced the economic boycott measures the United States is taking against the Jamahiriyah and demanded that they be canceled immediately, since they violate international law and its charters.

The conference reaffirmed the legitimacy and justness of the heroic struggle being waged by the Namibian people under the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO], their genuine and sole representative. It urged full implementation of Security Council Resolutions Nos 385 for the year 1976 and 435 for the year 1978. The conference denounced the South African Government

for looting Namibia's national resources and voiced its rejection of any link between the implementation of Resolution No 435 for the year 1978 and the Cuban forces' presence in Angola. It requested that the member states extend full support to Namibia to effect earlier independence for it. The conference voiced solidarity with the confrontations states and their neighboring states and demanded that comprehensive, binding sanctions be imposed on the Pretoria government in accordance with provisions of the Seventh Chapter of the UN Charter. The conference officially affirmed the legitimacy and justness of the heroic struggle waged by the South African people. It vehemently denounced the apartheid policy and the collusion between the Pretoria government and the Zionist entity. The conference denounced the policy of establishing Bantustans and demanded support for the Africa Fund which was established by the Eighth Nonaligned Summit Conference. The conference strongly denounced the savage acts of repression being perpetrated against the people of South Africa and demanded an immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and the imposition of comprehensive, binding sanctions against the racist minority Government of South Africa in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

The conference also denounced the Pretoria government's aggressive policy of undermining the stability of the independent neighboring and confrontation states and expressed its strong resentment toward the escalation of the violence, terrorism, and massacres of civilians in the states in this region. The conference appealed to the member states to extend political, material, and humanitarian assistance to people who suffer from the Pretoria government's policy of terrorism in South Africa.

The conference welcomed efforts the African states are exerting for economic resuscitation and development in accordance with the program of economic resuscitation in Africa for the years 1986-1990 which was adopted by the OAU heads of states and governments in July 1985.

The conference asked the member states to increase their aid to the African states and decided that the aid extended in this regard by the member states and the international community should concentrate on agriculture.

The conference urged the member states to increase their assistance toward strengthening the economies of the drought-stricken Sahel states and empowered the ICO General Secretariat to cooperate with the governmental committee for combating drought in the Sahel states and with other Islamic development organizations in extending assistance to the Sahel states in the field of combating pests and illness, and in the field of food security, the rational use of water resources, and establishing model projects for combating desertification.

The conference appealed to all states, especially those possessing nuclear weapons, to respond to proposals for declaring Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia nuclear-free zones.

The conference denounced cooperation between the Zionist entity and the South African regime in the production of nuclear weapons, thus preventing the establishment of nuclear-free zones. The conference reiterated the determination of the member states to take measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The conference welcomed ASEAN's decision to work for keeping Southeast Asia a nuclear-free zone and asked the member states to cooperate with the United Nations and other international organizations concerned to keep Southeast Asia a nuclear-free zone. The conference called on all the member states to cooperate in the United Nations and in all world bodies concerned with the aim of declaring Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia nuclear-free zones.

The conference appealed to the members of the disarmament conference to work diligently with the aim of reaching an agreement on an international treaty to secure the states that do not possess nuclear weapons against the use or the threat to use nuclear weapons, and recommended that the Islamic states continue cooperating to realize this objective.

The conference reiterated its support for the idea of convening an international conference under UN auspices to define the meaning of terrorism and to distinguish between terrorism and people's struggle for national liberation, and expressed its gratitude to the General Secretariat for holding a symposium in Geneva on this issue. The conference asked the Secretariat to hold another symposium on the same subject.

The conference appealed to all the member states to adhere strictly to international agreements concerning air piracy and voiced its condemnation of international terrorism in all forms, such as the crimes of hijacking planes and the illegal actions that threaten the safety of civil aviation. The conference appealed to the member states to take all necessary measures to combat such crimes and to inflict the harshest punishment on those who participate in perpetrating them.

The conference appealed to the Islamic states to extend assistance to the persecuted Muslims in the Horn of Africa and requested that the ICO secretary general submit a report on their conditions to the next conference. The conference reaffirmed its previous resolutions regarding its solidarity with the Somalia Democratic Republic [SDR] and its support for the efforts Somalia is exerting to defend its sovereignty and its territorial integrity. The conference demanded that the Ethiopian forces immediately and unconditionally withdraw from the territories of the SDR.

The conference also reaffirmed the unity of the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros as well as its territorial integrity and its sovereignty over Mayotte Island. It expressed solidarity with the Comoran Government and people in their legitimate efforts to restore this island, and urged the French Government to honor the pledges

it made on the eve of the referendum held on 22 December 1974 on the Comoros Islands' right to self-determination. The conference requested that the ICO secretary general continue his contacts with French authorities to acquaint them with the ICO's profound concern over this problem.

Out of its profound concern for the ordeal being experienced by millions of refugees worldwide, especially since the Islamic nation encompasses the great majority of them, the conference urged the member states to coordinate their activities on the international level with the aim of defining the main reasons behind the refugees' great influx into Islamic and other states and easing such reasons. The conference also urged the international community to coordinate its efforts in tackling the general reduction in aid extended to refugees. It appealed to the member states to pay attention to the issue of the Muslim minorities which live in non-Islamic states, and to do their utmost, by contacting these states, to secure the treatment of Muslim minorities in a way that conforms with the provisions of international law concerning human rights and basic freedoms. The conference thanked the ICO secretary general for the intensive efforts he has exerted to help Muslim minorities and for the report he has submitted on this issue. It requested that the secretary general closely follow up the conditions of Muslim minorities.

The conference voiced its profound regret over the Philippine Government's failure to honor its pledge to implement the Tripoli agreement concluded in 1976. It affirmed that the steps which the Philippine Government claimed it has taken, including the establishment of a so-called consultative council, do not conform with the provisions of the Tripoli agreement. This agreement explicitly provides for granting autonomy to the 13 regions defined in it and is considered a binding international agreement. The conference urged the Philippine Government to honor the Tripoli agreement and called on the member states to extend material, financial, and human aid to the Moro national Liberation Front to enable it to defend Muslims and Islam, and exercise its just and legitimate rights. It requested that the four-member ministerial committee and the ICO secretary general intensify their efforts, including contacts with the Philippine Government, to fully and quickly implement the Tripoli agreement.

Concerning the plight of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria, the conference expressed solidarity with this minority and voiced regret for its subjection to repression and other measures aimed at erasing its religious and cultural identity. The conference appealed to the Bulgarian Government to carry out its responsibilities in terms of recognizing all the religious and cultural rights of the Muslim minority. The conference took cognizance of the Turkish-Bulgarian protocol which was signed in Belgrade on 23 February 1988, expressed its gratitude for the efforts exerted by the ICO liaison group in this regard, and called on this group to closely watch the conditions of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

The conference voiced its satisfaction with the increasing cooperation between the United Nations and the ICO and asked the secretary general to pursue his efforts to expand this cooperation to serve the joint interests of both organizations in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields. The conference also asked the secretary general to continue his efforts with the aim of escalating this cooperation to include the Arab League, the Non-aligned Movement, the OAU, and other regional and international organizations.

The conference decided not to establish an international committee for Islamic law and deferred the drafting of the by-laws of this committee to the Islamic jurisprudence center to look into the possibility of its assuming the responsibility for establishing this committee.

The conference urged all member states that have not yet signed the agreement on immunities and privileges [ittifaqiyat al-hasanat wa al-imtiyazat] to undertake measures to sign this agreement.

The conference decided to defer to the justice ministers of the member states the draft of the human rights charter in Islam for consideration and final drafting so it can be presented to the next Islamic foreign minister's conference. The conference also urged the member states to approve the by-laws of the Islamic court of justice.

The conference unanimously elected Niger Prime Minister Hamid Algabid as secretary general of the ICO effective 1 January 1989. The conference decided to postpone the election of assistant secretaries general until the new secretary general assumes his duties in order that he may choose his own assistants. The conference expressed its utmost gratitute to current Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada for the strenuous efforts he exerted to realize the ICO's objectives and to strengthen Islamic solidarity during his tenure.

The ICO secretary general and the chairman of the conference made speeches during the closing session in which they expressed thanks to the delegations for their spirit of cooperation and solidarity which permeated the deliberations. They also expressed thanks for the technical staff of the General Secretariat and others for their excellent services during the conference.

At the conclusion of the conference, the representatives of Malaysia, Uganda, and Kuwait spoke on behalf of the Asian, African, and Arab groups respectively, expressing gratitute to His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal and the Jordanian Government and people for the hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements which enabled the conference to proceed in an atmosphere of brotherhood and cordiality and to issue its far-reaching, practical resolutions.

Al-Masri on Delay in Final ICO Statement

JN252020 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] At the end of the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference this afternoon, Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister and chairman of the conference, held a news conference. He said:

[Begin recording] I am pleased to meet with you again immediately after the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference. The conference has approved the reports and resolutions of the four committees as well as the conference's final statement. With God's help, matters proceeded smoothly and as desired. There was no tension, but coordination among the delegates. Therefore, the political committee's draft resolutions were approved quickly and in obvious agreement. Only a few draft resolutions took a long time, not because of differences in viewpoint but because of differences over certain formulations.

Today, when we met during a closed session to approve the resolutions of the political party, no side objected to any of the resolutions. This, of course, does not mean that some countries did not show reservations. I mean no lengthy discussion on these political resolutions took place. They were adopted without any delay. This also applies to the draft resolutions by the cultural, financial, and economic committees.

The conference's final statement was not read because its Arabic and French translations are not ready. Some delay took place. We were scheduled to conclude the session at 1200 today. But regrettably, the papers and the resolutions were not ready in some languages. Similarly, the final statement is not ready in the Arabic and French languages. It is ready only in English. Therefore, I cannot read for you the literal text of the statement in Arabic.

During the closing session, some countries asked for slight additions, some pertaining to formulation and others to the subject. Then they were approved. With God's help, the final statement will be ready either this evening or tomorrow morning. As you know, the final statement is a summary of all the resolutions. [end recording]

Questioned by reporters, Al-Masri said the conference adopted clear resolutions regarding support for the sweeping popular uprising of the Palestinian people, the Palestine question, the Middle East dispute, and the Iraq-Iran war. The conference voiced full support for the uprising and called for setting up committees throughout the Islamic world for solidarity with the Palestinian people, to extend material and moral support to the uprising on both the official and popular levels, to explain the meaning of the struggle of the palestinian Arab people, and to launch a political move on all levels. He said that the Palestinian people's uprising was one of the most important subjects which drew the attention of all the conferees who showed every understanding of its meanings and dimensions.

Al-Masri also said that the conference stressed the need for the Islamic states to exert intensive efforts to force Israel to respond to UN resolutions; bring about a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East; withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories, including the city of Jerusalem; and guarantee the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including their right to repatriation.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, Al-Masri said the draft resolutions approved in this regard are aimed at supporting Iraq and at the need to implement Security Resolution No 598 as a whole and in all its provisions as stipulated. He added that the conference stressed its full solidarity with Saudi Arabia regarding the holy places and the limitation of the number of pilgrims. The Iranian delegation objected and withdrew from the conference.

Regarding the conference's resolution on the Afghan issue, Al-Masri said the resolution was balanced and good, and included an article praising and welcoming the Soviet initiative to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Further on Delay of Final ICO Statement

TA251557 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1550 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Amman (A.A.)—Foreign ministers of member countries of Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) adopted Turkey's proposal for a confidence and security building mechanism among the member countries, AA correspondent reported from Jordan's capital Amman today. Accordingly, a commission of 5 experts will prepare a report on the subject to be submitted to the next meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in 1989. The host for the 18th session of the Islamic foreign ministers will be Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, the final communique is delayed owing to differences of view on the Palestinian issue, sources close to the conference organization said. While PLO and radical Arab countries insist on a reference to an independent Palestinian state, this year's host country Jordan objects to the mention of a Palestinian state.

Syria Comments on ICO Resolutions, Decisions

Reservations Expressed

JN251831 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] A SANA correspondent in Amman has learned that the ICO conference adopted a number of resolutions, including resolutions on the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in Afghanistan, and the issue of minorities in Bulgaria. The Syrian Arab Republic delegation expressed reservations about these resolutions or about some of their paragraphs, because their drafting and contents are not in harmony with the conference's announced desire to reach balanced and aspired solutions to these issues.

Cairo Session Opposed

JN251450 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] The Syrian Arab Republic's delegation to the ICO conference being held in Amman has issued the following press statement:

The conference discussed the issue of hosting the 18th session of the ICO Foreign Ministers Conference. There was a consensus on holding the 18th session in Saudi Arabia in 1989. The Egyptian delegation offered to host the 19th session in 1990, and a discussion was held on the suitability of Cairo at present as a venue for the Islamic conference. The Syrian foreign minister explained that it is unreasonable to hold this meeting in Cairo as long as the Israeli flag is raised there. This, he said, contradicts the Islamic principles and the resolutions of the Islamic summit held in Kuwait in 1987, which called on the Islamic states which establish relations with the Zionist enemy to sever all relations with Israel. This also contradicts the resolution issued by the current Amman conference, which denounced the states that established diplomatic relations with Israel and asked them to reconsider their stand.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Proximity Talks on Afghanistan Continue

BK290454 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] The proximity talks on Afghanistan held another session in Geneva lasting for 1 and 1/2 hours yesterday. Giving brief replies to newsmen, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, said: We are reviewing the progress made toward signing the agreement. Regarding progress regarding equal responsibilities, he said: This is not part of the Geneva instruments, but it is of great importance to Pakistan and the United States. When the Soviet Union agrees on its responsibilities, we will make progress.

The U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state [title as heard], (Robert Pack), told newsmen in Geneva that the United States is waiting for the Soviet response to its proposals for breaking the stalemate in the UN-sponsored proximity talks on Afghanistan. He said talks on these proposals can be held in various ways.

Pakistan has rejected the Kabul administration's attempts to impose new conditions for signing the agreement in Geneva to peacefully resolve the Afghanistan issue; Pakistan is looking for a practical agreement. In a letter to the UN secretary general, Perez de Cuellar, Pakistani Ambassador S. Shah Nawaz said that we are participating in the Geneva talks in order to reach an agreement that will bring about the orderly withdrawal of Soviet troops and the quick return of thousands of refugees in line with the agreed timeframe. The Pakistani representative described Kabul's allegations as totally incorrect and misleading and said their main objective is mere propaganda. This letter was released in the form of a Security Council and General Assembly document. It says Pakistan has stressed the need for equal responsibilities and an interim government in order to create a peaceful atmosphere conducive to the effective implementation of the agreement. These demands reflect Pakistan's desire to end the bloodshed and to create an agreeable atmosphere.

Egypt

'New Language' Deserves 'Concern, Encouragement'

JN272009 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
24 Mar 88 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] The United States is doing the impossible to convince Israel to accept peace. Shamir has gotten everything he has requested from the United States just because he did not reject the U.S. peace plan. He did not accept it either. He got 75 fighter planes. He received the support he demanded. He received a promise that Soviet Jews' immigration to Israel would be at the top of the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting's agenda. He also got affirmation from the United States of the strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel.

However, today the United States talks in a language that attracts attention. In a message to the Palestinian people, Shultz says the participation of the Palestinian people is necessary for the success of the peace process and that this process is difficult because peace has its enemies. He did not explain who these enemies are because we know them all.

Peace means drawing a map of Israel and its borders—something which Israel does not accept. He said it is possible to achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people without endangering Israel's security and that security is a basic condition for a better future for both parties. He also said each party must understand that it cannot fulfill its dreams without fulfilling the dreams of the other.

Shultz also tells THE WASHINGTON POST that the peace mission is represented in finding the appropriate temptations for all parties to accept peace. We also know that the temptation is directed toward Israel because the Palestinian demands are humble. The Palestinian people only want their land. They demand reasonable, reciprocal concessions. The Arabs, as we know, agree to this because they want land in return for peace. But Israel rejects this because it wants land and capitulation.

President Reagan and Mr Shultz admit the situation in the Middle East is unacceptable and its continuation cannot be defended. They also admit that there are parties who are prepared to abandon their illusions and modify their dreams to match the basic facts and that all parties should accept difficult decisions. In an attempt to tempt Israel into peace, Shultz says before the U.S. Senate that peace may help Israel improve the standard of living and that peace may give the Palestinian people a government and allow them to live a dignified life. We agree to this; does Israel agree?

Reagan says all the parties have reservations, but they did not demonstrate rejection, and that this will not stop the United States from continuing its peace efforts.

Undoubtedly, the language in the United States these days is different, even the language of the U.S. media. This may be due to the Palestinian people's uprising or to the concern of the United States for its friends in the Middle East. It may be due to a U.S. feeling that the Soviet Union is being accepted by the Arabs, since the Arabs unanimously agree that the United Sates may sacrifice everyone for the sake of Israel.

Nevertheless, and regardless of the reasons behind this U.S. change, the Arabs should encourage this change and adhere to it. They must help the United States succeed in its peace efforts, especially since Israel [as published] began to emphasize the Palestinian people's rights, in addition to the previous stands which it declared before the world represented by the United Nations and the Security Council that the United States rejects the annexation of Jerusalem, considers Arab territory before 5 June 1967 occupied territory, rejects changing the character of the territory, and respects the Geneva conventions in this regard.

The United States has realized that Israel rejects peace. That is why it is providing Israel with what might tempt it to accept peace. The Arabs must know that Moscow's stands are mere words that do not help regain the territory either through war or peace. They must also know that Moscow rejects peace, and its enemies [as published] in the region reject peace. Moscow did not take its share of the region as it wishes and pleases. The United States, on the other hand, is speaking a new language that deserves our concern and encouragement.

'Provocative' Israeli Threats to Saudis Viewed

JN281615 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
26 Mar 88 p 6

[Editorial: "The Discordant Voice in the Peace Process"]

[Text] World quarters have described President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's statements on the Israeli threats to Saudi Arabia as being the angry reaction of an Arab leader who seeks peace but at the same time does not relinquish his country's pan-Arab commitments and supports justice in an honorable and courageous manner.

Observers are unanimous that Mubarak's statements and the two letters he sent to U.S. President Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Shamir translate a responsible stand in line with the supreme Arab interests. These statements and letters also put Shamir in a real dilemma before his people, the people in the region, international public opinion, and the U.S. Administration. Shamir seeks to undermine the U.S. Administration's efforts to invigorate the peace process in the Middle East and wipes out with his rashness any hope of attaining security, stability, and peace in the region.

Those who closely follow Shamir's behavior since he assumed power and the method with which he confronts the popular uprising in the occupied territories will find

out that on one hand he is eager to undermine any peace opportunity. On the other, he arrogates to himself the legal guardianship over the states in the region with respect to their affairs and policies.

Shamir now threatens Saudi Arabia, an independent and sovereign state, by saying he will direct a pre-emptive blow against the missiles Saudi Arabia purchased from the PRC. He also brings mind what the Tel Aviv government did when it raided the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

Shamir brandishes war and threats and thus emerges as a discordant voice in the midst of the intensive efforts to achieve peace. However, Arab Egypt through its president has passed the message to Shamir that any Israeli aggression against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will undermine peace between Egypt and Israel. The Arabs must also adopt a responsible stand in light of these provocative threats and seek to develop a collective stand that will be the impregnable wall against which all threats will founder.

Paper Denounces Shamir's 'Intransigence'

NC290607 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—In its Tuesday edition and under the headline "Political Terrorism," the newspaper AL-AHRAM denounces Shamir's intransigence and his rejection of the idea of an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

The newspaper says that at a big and tumultuous demonstration staged to celebrate his triumphant return from Washington, Shamir leveled accusations, issued threats, sent warnings, and ridiculed everyone, thus creating an atmosphere of tension and fanaticism in the region. Such an atmosphere is not helpful to the peace efforts and is not conducive to stability and security, which must replace the region's outstanding problems.

AL-AHRAM adds that Shamir returned from Washington putting laurels on his head, thinking he is a hero entitled to have a free hand in the Israeli, Arab, and American arenas and imagining he can treat everyone as he pleases, imposing on them his detestable method of political dealing and wresting from them what he wants, thanks to his new power of authority, which has made him the be-all and end-all in the region.

The newspaper notes that the latest bombshell by Shamir was his attempt to torpedo any meeting between U.S. officials and Palestinians, even if such a meeting were marginal. The paper was thus referring to Shamir's protest at Shultz' meeting with two Americans of Palestinian origin—two men who have standing and who are respected by everyone.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on 'Liberation,' Egypt, Freedom

LD281310 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1046 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir Air Base in Tobruk, at a rally marking the 18th anniversary of the evacuation of British troops from the base—live]

[Text] In the name of God. Brothers: Today we are celebrating on the grounds of this liberated air base, which was, until quite recently—until the outbreak of the revolution—under complete military occupation by British forces. This base was not the only place under military occupation. All Libyan land was under British and U.S. military rule. Until the outbreak of the revolution, in the shadow of the banners of the pseudo-independence whose throne was made in Britain, the British forces used to take the liberty of entering this country by land, sea, and air. British forces from Malta, Cyprus and the rest of the British bases in the Mediterranean used to land at Al-Bunbah, Tobruk and 'Ayn al-Ghazalah without asking permission from the population of this country, from the government, from the people. Until the outbreak of the revolution this land used to be like part of the British territories.

So the revolution was not an internal change so much as liberation from foreign military colonialism. Libya was effectively under complete military occupation by U.S. and British forces before the outbreak of the revolution. We did not undertake the revolution for the sake of internal change only; basically, the objective was the liberation of the Libyan country from complete military occupation. We did not confront an internal political, social reactionary, or corrupt situation only; in fact, when we moved and began the revolution we faced foreign forces stationed on Libyan territory whose tasks included preventing change and the liberation of the land and the people.

Consequently the mission of the free unionist officers, who led this historic revolution, was the liberation of an occupied land. This base where we are standing today and where we raise our free flags, free from the foreign forces, constituted a threat not only to the independence and safety of the Libyan land and people, but a real threat to the security and peace of the Arab nation.

We all know that this base took part in the tripartite aggression against our Arab land in Egypt in 1956. Britain led the tripartite aggression against Egypt and occupied and appropriated this land that borders Egypt. It could not help but use these military bases in its aggression. However, because of this historic revolution, and the Libyan people's march over this base and its liberation, it became the base of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir; scores of the Egyptian Arab Air Force graduated from this base, and many of the heroes of the October battles

graduated from the Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir Base. After the revolution, this base was included with the Egyptian military bases, and a significant portion of the Egyptian Air Force was stationed here at this base, which played a historic role during the October war. The October pilots graduated from here, and it formed the strategic backdrop for the Egyptian Arab Air Forces.

We mention this not because we consider that we are owed a service or a favor for this base's participation in the battle of the crossing [of the Suez Canal], but to stress the unity of the Arab land, the unity of the struggle against the common Israeli enemy, who is still ready to go back to Sinai, the Canal, Egypt, and Libya.

From here, brothers, where we are speaking today near the artificial borders between the two peoples, or between the one and only people in Egypt and Libya, we are speaking near these borders which we do not recognize at all.

These borders were created by the British and the Italians. They established them to prevent Egyptian supplies to the mujahidin and 'Umar al-Mukhtar in the Jabal al-Akhdar. The proof that there are no borders between the inhabitants of this region—those who live in Tobruk, Sallum, Matruh, (Ziwah), or Al-Jaghbub—is that the Italians, in coope ation with the British, had to erect barbed wire where they considered the borders should be on this Arab land. Consequently, we do not recognize these borders. [chanting and applause].

To stress the declaration of freedom which is currently being implemented throughout the free Libyan land, to implement the resolutions of the people's congresses—which term Libya the country of all Arabs, and the Jamahiriyah the country of the jamahir [masses], that is, the country of all the Arab masses—I declared on Liberation Day, the day of the establishment of the people's power and the creation of the Jamahiriyah, that the Libyans enjoy fill freedom. We have to stress this and be proud of the fact that the Libyan Arab citizen is the only citizen in the world who is free and who is not burdened with restrictions and pressures from within or without. From within, he is sovereign on his land and owns power, wealth and arms; from without, he is fighting fiercely and stubbornly the attempts of foreign dominance and arrogance.

As this land from the Atlantic to the Gulf is ours; as the Arab people are ours; as the Al-Fatih Revolution raises the flag of unity and liberation, shoulders a historic responsibility before the Arab masses, and is the focus of the hopes of the Arab popular and revolutionary forces; as the borders are lifted between the Jamahiriyah, Tunisia, Algeria, and Sudan; and as the Arab citizen from Libya and the other Arab countries has become able to enter and leave freely, without restriction or control; there should not remain, for the sake of freedom, any closed borders.

On this occasion, as far as the artificial borders between the Arab people in Libya and Egypt are concerned, the Libyans are free to travel as citizens to their country and their brothers in Sallum, Marsa Matruh, Alexandria, and Egypt. [chants] Consequently the sons of Egypt have the right to come to their country, the Jamahiriyah, which is the country of the jamahir—the country of all Arabs and the country of the people's congresses and committees. They may enter from any post along the artificial borders. As far as we are concerned, they will never be considered infiltrators, and so they should never be apprehended or be sent back. Thus, we are destroying the obstacles that colonialism built between the sons of the Arab people; we are destroying, moreover, one of the artificial pillars of regionalism; and we are stressing the unity of the Arab land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf and the unity of the Arab people from the Ocean to the Gulf. [chants]

O brother Libyans, men and women, when you began dismantling these borders and when you travel to the Arab land from the interior, without any conditions or restrictions—and I hope you will not be faced with restrictions or conditions from the neighboring Arab countries—and when you dismantle the borders so that the rest of the Arabs can come to you without conditions or restrictions, you are going to carry out a very important historic act which is, moreover, an affirmation of the unity of this land and the unity of this people. You will also bring closer the date of unity; you will also destroy one of the obstacles before the the unity tide; and you will destroy what colonialism has erected to weaken this nation, create schisms between its sons, and divide it into kingdoms and emirates and provinces.

We have thus taken the right historical direction vis-a-vis our Arab nation. We have done so as a free Arab people, as a free Arab land, and as a pan-Arab, unionist, and liberating revolution, and thus we should never build borders between us and between the sons of our Arab nation. It is not right for us to affirm what colonialism has done upon our land; rather, we must show colonialism's lies and fabrications and defeat the determination of colonialism, which seeks to divide the sons of the one Arab people and has divided the one Arab country. [chants]

The Libyans are free to travel to Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, and Egypt, without conditions or restrictions. Libyans are free to go from their country; nobody will ban them from visiting their brethren. At the same time, I am announcing, and I bear responsibility for it, in front of the Arab League, or from anywhere else, that all Libyan military forces will be withdrawn from the artificial Libyan-Egyptian borders. [passage omitted]

In addition, it should be understood that the Libyan revolution maintains its firm stance and the principles from which it will never depart: the full and firm opposition to the Egyptian regime, which is related to the mortal enemy of the Arab nation. We will fight against

the recognition by an Arab state of our mortal enemy. We will continue the fight with the Egyptian people and its revolutionary forces, until Egypt can get rid of this enemy. But our struggle with the Egyptian people and the Egyptian revolutionary force cannot be with a Libyan soldier, aircraft, or tank. For this reason, I say that there is no need for this materiel and this massing of forces against Egypt. But we will remain on the popular and revolutionary level. With all the revolutionary means of struggle, we will remain allied with the Egyptian people, the Egyptian opposition, and the Egyptian revolutionary force against the stable David, against the Zionist enemy, against imperialist America, for the liberation of Palestine, and for the recovery of Jerusalem.

Consequently, the Jamahiriyah cannot think at all of establishing relations with the political regime in Egypt as long as it is related to the Zionist enemy, as long as it is related to U.S. imperialism, and as long as the U.S. policy is endangering the Arab nation and the Palestinian cause—which is the central cause. Consequently, we do not intend to establish any sort of relations with the Egyptian regime at the political level. We cannot recognize it. It is impossible for us to meet with it on these grounds, which are those of its relations with the enemy.

We oppose the decisions of the Arab governments which resumed their relations with the Egyptian regime without any sign of renunciation of its relations with the enemy. This does not mean that the battle between us and the Egyptian regime will mean a battle between deaf people or between children. We know the rulers of Egypt. Husni Mubarak himself was an officer in the Egyptian Air Force; he might have been at this base. He knows the role of the Libyan people and the role of the Libyan people's revolution with Egypt, Egypt's Army, and with the Egyptian Air Forces; even if he denies this, he will not be able to forget it.

He remembers it well, even if he pretends not to. But he does remember it. He knows how we massed capabilities for the liberation of Sinai and the crossing of the Canal. He knows that this base was placed fully at his disposal, because he was commander of the Egyptian Air Force. For our part, we know the political and military leaders of Egypt. And so a fight between them and us cannot be a fight between the deaf or between children, that is, without understanding, or without us listening to each other.

This does not prevent us from listening to the Egyptian viewpoint in any form. This must be stated and it should not tarnish our revolutionary and staunch stance as regards Egypt's ties with the enemy, and our historic attachment to the inevitability of the liberation of Palestine, the destruction of Zionism, and the defeat of the United States in the Arab land. The United States will indeed be defeated, inevitably, and it will discover that the Arab land is hot under its feet. We will work to set fire to the Arab land under the feet of imperialism and Zionism. I am saying this confidently and clearly. We do not hide, or hesitate to listen to the viewpoint of the Egyptian regime.

Why, after Al-Sadat, does it continue to recognize the so-called State of Israel? To recognize the so-called State of Israel means that there is no Palestine, no Palestinian people, because this recognition is based on what Al-Sadat said in Jerusalem. He said: This is the land of Israel. This means this is not Palestine. He said: This is the land of Israel, and this is the people of Israel. This means that this is not the Palestinian people. This means this is the people of Israel and the land of Israel. This means there is no Palestinian people and there is no land called Palestine. This contradicts world history and geography. All the world, even foreigners say: Palestine [preceding word in English]. This means there is no Israel at all. When did we hear of Israel? In 1948, a consequence of World War II.

What I mean is that there is nothing that prevents us from listening to what the Egyptian Government says. Why do you still say this is the land of Israel and the people of Israel? You have sold out the people of Palestine and sold out Palestine, sold out Jerusalem and sold out God, as the Arab poet says. They have sold out these sanctities because recognizing Israel means there is no Palestine, no people of Palestine, no Jerusalem. Jerusalem is now an Israeli capital, a capital for the Jewish state. This means: Where is Palestine then? We want to hear the opinion of the Egyptian Government.

Why, when the so-called State of Israel renounced all its commitments to the stable David agreement? When the march after the stable David agreement has been a march of war and destruction and not a march of peace as announced, and when it turned its back on the Palestinian people and their rights to self-determination as mentioned in the stable David agreement? And when it had violated an important clause of the stable David agreement, that is, that the Israelis would not set up settlements in the Palestinian lands occupied in 1967—after this agreement, 192 settlements were built on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian lands occupied in 1967 alone—and that there would be no construction of settlements and the previously constructed ones would be abandoned?

The Israelis will not give up the previous settlements. They have even built new settlements. Approximately 200 new setlements were built after the stable David agreement. The stable David agreement at least contained self-rule for the Palestinians, even though we reject self-rule for the Palestinians. We accept no less than the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea. But I am talking about the disgraceful and humiliating stable David agreement—the agreement of dishonor—and its unjust provisions, which squander the right of the Arab people and their sacrifices. That agreement at least had self-rule for the Palestinians.

The Israelis reneged on a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and on self-government or home rule. I mean to say that the Israeli side totally violated all terms of the stable David agreement. They gave Egypt the right to get rid of this agreement.

The latest in the chain of events was the incident of burying Palestinians alive. When I made a speech at Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf, I said that four Palestinians had been buried alive. All the Arabs said no, this was not true. Even those who were sitting next to me also said: We have heard nothing. Even the radios were not sure if this had happened. Only Al-Qadhdhafi said this. Finally, the whole world saw that four Palestinians had actually been buried alive. The Israelis admitted this. They arrested a number of soldiers. They held a sham trial and said: We are trying these Israeli soldiers because they buried the Palestinians alive, and the Israeli Army or the Israeli Government does not permit the burying of Palestinians alive. This means that this incident was true. The Israelis buried four Palestinians alive.

This is the result of the stable David agreement, the result of Egyptian recognition of what is called Israel. This is the result of Egypt's abandoning the confrontation, the result of the fact that Egypt gave the Israelis peace, calm, and security on their southern borders, so that they could devote all their time to burying Palestinians alive, destroying Lebanon and confronting Syria.

Of course, this is betrayal, high treason, pan-Arab high treason which Egypt has committed; there is no doubt about this. Right up to today, Egypt is guilty of this treason. This is because the threat is directed at Syria; Syria might become like Palestine and Lebanon. This is because the Israeli forces devote their full attention to confronting Syria. If Syria had fallen, the entire Arab nation would have fallen. This is because Syria is the only place which can resist on the northern and eastern fronts. Who else is resisting? Jordan? What resistance is Jordan offering? Is the Gulf resisting? With what?

Cadillacs and Chevrolets; chandeliers and palaces and harems? What resistance is the Gulf offering? These are the capabilities of the Gulf. Oil is not in the Gulf; it is in the banks of the United States, which are owned by the Israelis. And Iraq? It is preoccuppied with the Gulf war; the second military force after Syria. If Syria falls, it means darkness will have fallen on the Arab east completely. Who is to blame? What is the cause? The cause is Egypt. We should understand that Egypt is the cause. Egypt is responsible for this. If this disaster ever takes place, its historic responsibility falls on Egypt; Egypt was the one that made Israel's southern borders secure, and it is Egypt that gave them security so that they could devote their attention to the northern front.

However, we have no way of preventing [words indistinct] nor have we said let us start a dialogue of the deaf with the Egyptians. We can hear the Egyptian Government's views openly. What is your opinion on the burying of Palestinians alive? What is your opinion on the Israeli violation of all the stipulations of the stable David accords? What is your opinion of Syria being in danger? What is your opinion of the assertion that if Syria fell, the Arab nation would fall? We will tell these to our brothers in Egypt. Why do they continue to recognize the enemy? What does recognizing the enemy mean? It means no recognition of Palestine and no recognition of the Palestinian people.

Egypt has no [word indistinct]. Egypt is the largest Arab country and it must lead the struggle one generation after another. How can we deny the glorious history of the Egyptian people's and Army's sacrifices since 1948. Why did the Egyptian people and Army offer sacrifices on Palestinian land in 1948? Were those martyrs destined for hell? If our struggle before 1967 was wrong, then the martyrs of the Egyptian Army would have gone to hell. The Egyptian Army fought in Khan Yunis under the leadership of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. They encircled 'Abd al-Nasir in Falujah. It would mean that this was wrong. The sacrifices offered by the Arab nation before 1967 have gone to hell; they were wrong. Because now there is no talk except on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Alright, Palestine—where is Palestine?

The PLO itself began armed struggle before 1967. It did not start the struggle to liberate the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The West Bank wa annexed to Jordan and the Gaza Strip was annexed to Egypt. What was the problem between us and the Israelis before 1967?

Brothers, there is a serious falsification, and this falsification has been started in Egypt. Egypt is responsible for this misinformation and falsification. The issue is not one of morale; it is a material one, because Israeli troops are now preparing for the coming battle to destroy Syria. You must understand this. Egypt is responsible for this. Having had the opportunity provided by Egypt, the Israelis are now making atomic bombs. 'Abd al-Nasir said that if it was ever confirmed that the so-called Israel had made atomic bombs, the hostile base must be attacked even if 4 million soldiers had to be mobilized. This is there, recorded in 'Abd al-Nasir's voice. He said that if it was confirmed that the enemy possossed the atomic bomb, the hostile base must be attacked even if I have to mobilize 4 million Egyptian soldiers, because this would be a threat.

When it was announced that the Saudis had received medium-range missiles from China—naturally, the chances are that they would use them agaainst Iran and not to liberate Palestine—nevertheless, the Israelis announced that they would not allow any Arab country to possess missiles of 1,000, 2,000, or 3,000 [distince not specified] because these will reach us and, consequently, we [the Israelis] will destroy them. We will not allow any Arab country to have nuclear reactors, because they might make atomic bombs that may be used against us. They said that this was in self-defense.

Alright, we Arabs, and the whole world is our witness, know that the Israelis have made the atomic bomb; now they are making missiles with a range of 4,000 miles, to reach from the Ocean to the Gulf. Why are we not attacking the base of aggression? Why are we not attacking the Negev Desert and destroying the nuclear reactor, as they attacked Baghdad and destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor. They said it was in self-defense, and the United States supported them, saying I [the United States] understand; it was self-defense; you are in a state of war with Iraq. Alright, we Arabs are in a state of war with the so-called Israel, and this Israel has made the atomic bomb and missiles with a range capable of reaching any Arab capital. Why are we not attacking it?

I have been wishing an end to the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran, which I deem a waste and an aimless war. Those who are behind such a war are the Americans, the Israelis, and reaction, which is working for imperialism and Zionism, as the Americans and the Israelis have been fearful of the Iranian Islamic revolution and the Iraqi military might. Thus they have hatched this conspiracy so that these powers confront each other and leave Zionism and imperialism alone. They are, of course, laughing now, because their plan has succeeded. So it is paramount that all efforts should be exerted to stop this war. Any side that insists on continuing the fighting should not really be considered a Muslim or really sincere in his confrontation with Zionism and imperialism. I now doubt very much that any side taking part in this war could really be against imperialism and Zionism.

What are the justifications? What do Iraq and Iran want? Does Iraq want to occupy Iran? This is wrong, and we must stop it. When it threatened the Iranian revolution, we stood by the latter. But on the other hand, does Iran want to occupy Iraq? Why does it want to occupy Iraq? Well, this is impossible for it. So it is paramount to get in touch immediately with those who are responsible for this war, as this war has become ignoble: Children's schools have become military targets; it has harmed Islam and has not respected the sacred months of Islam.

I am sure that imperialism and Zionism are behind it. Effectively, they have sold weapons to Iran. Iran is against Zionism and imperialism, yet Zionism and imperialism collaborated to send weapons to Iran during the last years. Why? Because they want to destroy Iran and the Iranian revolution and, moreover, they want to destroy Iraq. It is possible that they have even supplied Iraq with weapons. They give weapons to Iraq so that the latter will fight Iran, and they give weapons to Iran so that it will fight Iraq. Well, it is logical that Zionism and imperialism would supply weapons. It is 100-percent fact now that Iran is receiving U.S. weapons via Israel, there is no doubt about that. But would this mean that Iran is not against the Israelis and the Americans? No, never; it is against them, and that is why they have supplied it with weapons—so that it may continue the war and subsequently destroy itself.

What I want to see is a Libyan official and an Egyptian official standing one day in front of the Arab nation, and the Egyptian official would state why they continue their ties and recognition of the enemy, because in doing so you have created a dangerous situation for yourselves, for us, and for the rest of the Arab nation. Egypt should not continue its recognition of the enemy; rather, it should declare war on the enemy, particularly since the latter made the nuclear bomb and buried the Palestinians alive. We want to hear from them.

They may tell us: We are a defeated country and we were compelled to recognize it. In this case we will announce that Egypt is a defeated country and was compelled to recognize the enemy as a result of its military defeat, and thus we must not vilify or attack it because it has become a helpless country. Rather, we should assist it. As was the case with Germany following World Wars I and II when it was defeated, it became helpless and was divided. We should not therefore blame Germany, we should rather blame the enemies who destroyed and divided it. So when we hear that Egypt is a country without free will, that it has been defeated, and that it has been compelled to recognize Israel, we will meet and tell each other: Look, your brothers have been defeated and have been compelled to recognize it, so there is no need to vilify them any more because of their recognition, because the latter was imposed on them by force. In this case we should rather think how to help them to overcome their defeat and how to liberate Egypt together.

They may say to us: We do not believe in the Palestinian question or the unity of the Arab nation, and we are not Arabs—as Al-Sadat once said—and we want to recognize Israel, as Israel is not an enemy. In this case we should understand this. This means that Egypt will be like Israel; then the name that the journalists coined to describe it—Misrael [word formed by combining Misr, meaning Egypt, and Israel]—shall apply; it will then become Misrael, and no longer Egypt. Egypt and Israel will then become one state. All this constitutes a danger to the Arab nation.

What is called Israel is manufacturing atomic bombs and missiles that have a range of 4,000 missiles. This is a danger to all of us and to our existence. How come an Arab state recognizes this enemy who is sharpening the knife to slaughter us? How come this big Arab state continues to have links with Israel? We want to hear from it. We do not want to hear its views via radios, or by way of abuse, or comments made by stupid people. No. We want to hear it face to face at any level—you send delegations from the General People's Congress, or the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, or the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison—the latter can contact them in Egypt. Anyone can do so and quite openly without intrigues.

We say: Egypt, please; we will not fight you; we have pulled back our Army from your border. Libyans used to go to Egypt; they never had a quarrel with the Egyptian

people; they had no quarrels with Al-Sallum, or with Matruh, or Ziwah, or Alexandria. They have a quarrel with the Abidin Palace [President Mubarak's residence]. The Egyptian people have no quarrel with anyone in Libya. They can enter Libya at any point and will not be regarded as having entered the country illegally. [cheers, applause] He will not be an infiltrator. He will not be arrested.

But we want to know why Egypt continues its links with the enemy. It can tell us: I will get rid of the enemy but help me. Let this be in secret, for example. Alright. I am astonished how the Arab countries restored their relations with Egypt. I mean the Arab governments. In return for what? You—as Libyans—may be angry and say that Egypt could have informed the Arab governments about something that made them have confidence in Egypt and restore relations with it—like Egypt having told them: I will get rid of the Israelis and will fight what is called Israel, but give me a chance and restore relations with me and help me, but let that be in secret. Alright. Why do you withdraw confidence from the Libyans without telling the Libyans about it? If the matter is like that, even the Libyans should restore their relations with the Egyptians. They should help Egypt and help the Egyptian Government and help the Egyptian regime.

Are we not to be confided in? You would think that there is a secret that Egypt told to the Arab countries. If there was no secret told by Egypt to the Arab countries, and the attitude remains as before, then the Arab governments are wrong in restoring relations with Egypt and are practicing treason against the Arab people, against the Palestinian people, and against Palestine. Then it will be inevitable to resist this trend and this collapse. We have the capabilities to oppose this trend and this collapse.

We have the Arab masses and the revolutionary forces that exist openly and in secret. They can resist this trend, they can destroy regimes and change the map, and they can turn the tables. There are revolutionary forces that work secretly and openly from the ocean to the Gulf. There are Arab masses and a nation that is compelled to fight, even with its teeth, in order to survive, because it is threatened by the atom, by Israel. It is threatened by the Israeli missiles; it is threatened by the United States, the bitter enemy. There is a nation that has the right to live with respect in the area from the ocean to the Gulf. It has the right to live in security and peace between the ocean and the Gulf. This nation's peace and security are threatened by the recognition of the enemy and by the enemy himself. It is threatened by the collusion of the party that has recognized the enemy. Ultimately, we do not live a life of worms like they do; we do not practice an ideology like them—that is, to live our day and that is all.

No, we have a mission of struggle. Our struggle will continue, and we can create problems between the ocean and the Gulf for the enemies of the nation. We can change a great deal between the ocean and the Gulf. We can create revolutionary force, secretly and openly. We and the masses must be taken into account, because our nation is threatened, and it is our right to drive danger away from it. It is our right to enable it to follow its own path to the future.

This political stance must be understood. Border controls are lifted between Libya and Egypt concerning citizens, military forces withdrawn from the Libyan-Egyptian border, and dialogue with Egypt. We are prepared to hear why Egypt continues to recognize the enemy. But at the same time, our firm stance on the political and economic boycott of the Egyptian regime cannot be the subject of discussion, and there is no recognition of or reconciliation with this regime, just like the Zionist enemy, until it explains to us why it continues to recognize the enemy. If we see that this regime is a traitor then that is it, we treat it as a traitor regime. If it is helpless, then we deal with it as a helpless regime. This is clear, I suppose. You cannot say any more: Why Egypt, why not Egypt?

First, no Libyan can engage in one-upmanship with me regarding Egypt. When I considered the land of Egypt, as sacred Libyans were snubbing Egypt, saying: Starving Egyptians are coming to us; we have oil; we do not want them; let us do without this unity, O Mu'ammar. You, snubbing Libyans, you have time and time again said: We do not want this unity. You recognize yourselves! Regionalism, a nasty regionalism, exists here. No one can engage in one-upmanship with me vis-a-vis Egypt. I have fought the whole world for the sake of Egypt when I was a student, an officer, and in this office. I have been fighting for Egypt, for the people of Egypt, for the sacriices of Egypt. I still love Egypt and the people of Egypt, and I honor its sacrifices for the sake of the Arab nation. No one can engage in one-upmanship with me over Egypt, or stand between me and Egypt.

On the other hand, I do not meet with the Egyptian regime. But as far as I am concerned, the Egyptian people are my people, and even irrespective of the context of the pan-Arab people, but at a family level, my relatives live in the Delta, in Giza, in Sallum, in Matruh, in Al-Dab'ah. I can go to them and defy the Egyptian regime, the Egyptian patrols, the Israelis, and the Americans. I can take my airplane, or a camel, or a horse, and go to Sallum, Matruh, Al-Dab'ah, or anywhere. It would not be to meet any Egyptian official or the Egyptian Government, because I am against them, but to meet with my relatives, my kinfolk, my people, and the sons of my homeland in Egypt. [chants]

With a view to issuing a challenge to the Arab nation, I propose another plan, despite the fact that the estrangement—the political and economic rupture with the Egyptian regime—will continue in this situation. We do not envisage at all, even if a summit were now held with Egypt attending it, that Libya would attend a summit with Egypt in it, while the latter is in its present situation. Even if Egypt enters the Arab League, then Libya will

inevitably and spontaneously leave the Arab League. It is not just Libya; a number of Arab states, two or three states, would spontaneously leave the Arab League. This must be clear.

Nevertheless, I challenge and propose another project remote from politics. The political quarrel may continue between us and the Egyptian regime, but this project can continue to operate in isolation from politics. This project would be run by engineers, technicians, and ordinary workers; not by politicians or the military. Consequently, it has no relationship with the military, or politics, or the stable David agreement, or the Israelis. This project might not even be of interest to this generation. It might be of interest to this generation, but it is of interest to coming Arab generations, and it is a project for tomorrow. I know that we can begin immediately with it. The project is actually an old one: building a canal from Al-Nubariyyah to Tobruk in a way that it meets with the Great Man-Made River at the Al-Butnan plateau. [applause]

We would begin by linking the canal from Al-Nasir Lake to the source of the Great Man-Made River in Al-Kufrah and Sarir. The preliminary studies are ready. The desert between Libya and Egypt can be transformed into a paradise. This work is for history, for the future, and for tomorrow. It has no relationship with today's politics. Yesterday there was Al-Sadat, and now there is no Al-Sadat. Even yesterday Egypt was led by 'Abd al-Nasir, and he also led the Arab nation in the battle with dignity and honor and liberation, and here are the Israeli and U.S. flags flying over Egypt today.

What I mean is that politicians are not everlasting. These regimes will not last forever. Only God and the peoples are everlasting. Therefore, we can create work for future generations who have no relationship with stable David. Today, I defy the Egyptian Government in front of the Arab nation: We must embark on earnest action that can mold the future of the Arabs and strengthen their existence over their soil. We should link Al-Nasir Lake to the source of the Great Man-Made River in Al-Kufrah and Sarir, and link the canal of Al-Nubariyyah to Tobruk. Libya will provide the money and Egypt will provide the workers; we would leave this money, these workers, these engineers, these technicians, to work in this historic and strategic work for a number of years, while the political battle can rage at political level.

We are against the Egyptian regime because they recognized the enemy; the Egyptian regime is against us because we incite its dismembership with the enemy. The political battle could remain but we must start. We have to start from now with this work; from Al-Nubariyyah to Tobruk and from Al-Nasir Lake to Al-Kufrah and Sarir. We are making this challenge so that they should understand that we are not going to destroy the future of the Arab nation for the sake of temporary problems, even though the problem between ourselves and the Egyptian regime is a grave one. There is no Libyan-Egyptian problem. There is a pan-Arab problem. It is not a political issue. It is a material issue. I mean, there is an enemy who wants to destroy us. Egypt is giving it the chance so that he can destroy us; this is the result.

Egypt is the giving the enemy the chance so that he can destroy the Arab nation. The Israelis are today making the atom bomb. There is no doubt about this. The United States, Britain, Germany, and France have all admitted this; they admitted that the Israelis today are making the atom bomb. The Israelis should be attacked and the Israeli atomic reactor should be destroyed. The Arab nation should destroy this enemy before he destroys it.

This is self-defense and a legitimate right of existence on the land and under the sun. Otherwise, they will bury you alive like the Palestinians. Go and bury yourselves alive; let him go and get a tractor or a shovel and bury himself alive so that Zionism will not bury you alive or kill you with the atom bomb.

Why does Egypt compromise on the future of the Arab nation? Hope will always remain in the Egyptian and the Palestinian peoples. We appeal to the stone-throwing revolutionaries and the generation of anger; we are telling them that we are standing by them with money, weapons, spirit, blood, and deed. If we do not offer our wealth to the revolutionaries of Palestine now, the wealth would have no value at all and we do not deserve it. We call on them to address themselves to covert armed resistance similar to the one waged by the National Organization of Cypriot Fighters [EOKA] in Cyprus against English colonialism, and the one waged by the secret Irish Republican Army [IRA] in Northern Ireland. If they cannot do that, we call on them to stage civil disobedience and covert peaceful sabotage.

The unified Palestinian leadership in occupied Palestine and the revolutionaries of the generation of anger should listen carefully to this call. We are not only addressing a call to them; we are setting aside money and capabilities and are getting together the activities of the Arab nation and the world in support of the revolution of stones. We are telling them to turn to covert armed resistance similar to that of the IRA and EOKA in Cyprus, or turn to peaceful covert sabotage and civil disobedience. We are not just giving them words, we are behind them with our hearts and swords. We are in touch with the unified leadership of the revolution of stones and they are aware of these capabilities.

Along with the erasing of borders, victories over regionalism, and the destruction of borders—those created by French colonialism between Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria, and those created by Italian and English colonialism between Libya, Egypt, and Sudan—Arab goods must be imported from Arab countries and brought into Libya without customs duties, because they are Arab goods. Even the banana which we cry out about—if there were

bananas in Sudan or Somalia, they must be brought into Libya in a normal way as if they were Libyan produce, because they are produce of an Arab country.

Freedom is being consolidated over Libyan territory on the basis of the 2 March declaration [referring to the storming of prisons and release of inmates]. The resolutions that reaffirmed freedom in Libyan territory have begun to be implemented in practice. However, I would like Libya to become a model state mentioned worldwide as such, as the (? bastion) of freedom, where freedom has triumphed not by word but by deed. We defy all international organizations to come to Libya, and all researchers and scholars to come to Libya. Amnesty International, human rights, the United Nations, and so forth, any international body, we want them to come to Libya to see for themselves that freedom has triumphed and human rights have been consolidated more in Libya than in any country in the world.

Human rights are being violated in the United States, which boasts about defending human rights. Thousands of Americans are executed every month by the electric chair and by gas. Americans are not allowed their share of their country's wealth. The U.S. citizen is deprived of a home. We say that a house belongs to its occupant. There are none in the United States. There are sewers; sewers for citizens. Some 3 million Americans are without a home. Are these human rights? Some 10 billion are deprived at one moment or another of their right to employment and food.

In France some 40 families died of cold because they could not pay and their gas supply was cut off. Well, imagine, they were deprived even of their right to heating! Where are human rights? Human rights in Britain are being trampled beneath horses' hooves. You have seen that on British television. You have seen how the British police trample the British citizen; that is human (?dignity) being trampled beneath horses' hooves, and hot water is thrown over people. This is the real Europe that claims to be democratic. These are the European governments, governments which represent evil forces, racism, exploitation, uncivilized and barbaric forces; they suppress their people.

I want Libya to be an example, so that everyone in the world, even those who hate it, would testify against his will that human rights are respected in only one place on earth and that is Libya. We want the Libyan citizen to feel free with regard to his money, his honor, his work, his dreams, his activities, his coming and going, his travels, his salary, and his home.

The Libyan citizen should be at the level of these aspirations, and he should consolidate them with toil, sweat, honesty, and devotion, not by conspiracy, or treason, or by raising a fist, or by bribery, or by falling to the gutter level.

You have seen those who insulted themselves and insulted us. But, thanks be to God, we have removed the blot of dishonor: the fact that in Libya there were people in prison. I say that freedom on Libyan soil and the freedom of the Libyan masses must be confirmed not only in practice, but I want it to be strengthened through the legislature. I want to call on the people's congresses to hold an emergency session in the coming days. Each basic people's congress might need only one session or 1-2 days. I want the things that I have done on my own responsibility through a revolutionary decision, and through my revolutionary responsibility as leader of this revolution, things whose aim was to strengthen freedom and which are a cry of freedom—I want these words to be confirmed in actual fact. I want these decisions which I made on my personal responsibility to be strengthened legislatively. The people's congresses should sit down and consolidate them. This is a decision that was made by a revolutionary. Tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow, this revolutionary may not be around.

Who is going to protect those people from being imprisoned again? Who can guarantee that prisons which we destroyed will not be rebuilt? Who can guarantee that the people themselves, their fates, their future, their security, their calm, their happiness will not be threatened in the future? Who can guarantee this? Who can guarantee this?

Consequently, I want these revolutionary decisions to be written and to be made law by the people, so that they may have a legislative character so that everyone will feel secure that there will be no return to extraordinary methods.

This is an item which you should discuss at emergency sessions in the coming days. There should not be a return to emergency measures because emergency measures threaten liberty. As long as there is a chapter on emergency measures, liberty is threatened.

Second, we should not permit any side to practice this emergency state of affairs except as specified by the people. This is because in the past military intelligence used to practice this emergency state of affairs. The military police used to do so. The investigation department used to do so. The revolutionary committees used to do that too. This means there were a number of parties which had the responsibility of discipline. They used to make arrests, interrogate, and issue verdicts. This used to be the case in the past. That was a violation of freedom and upset the people's calm. What is wanted from now on is that we should never return to such practices. We should delete the instruments of the emergency system, the instruments which were used to exercise this emergency. Henceforth, no apparatus is allowed to make arrests, to carry out an interrogation, to pass verdicts, or to carry out the sentence.

I know that case about which this female hajj is talking. [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing to the place where a woman is standing]. I will come to it later on. [cheers and applause] All right.

I said there used to be quarters which used to make arrests, hold trials, and carry out the sentences. Now this should come to an end. It has come to an end now. There are no more restrictions on any Libyan. He can leave or stay or return. With regard to those who come from the prisons, we have demolished the prisons, and these people now have the right to be members of the people's committees, they are now free. Yesterday a group of them, some 300, visited the Great Man-Made River, and I found them in a tent surrounded by military police. I said: Why the military police, after we have demolished the prisons and set them free? What have they got to do with the military police? I told them: You are here and your relations are with the engineers working on the Great Man-Made River. [cheers and applause] This is an ordinary citizen. That is it. As far as we are concerned, he is free. Those among them who have good in their heart and have a conscience will become ideal compatriots; they will guard the revolution and its leadership. I am sure this will happen. [cheers]

This state of emergency should end. I set those people free and pardoned them on my own responsibility. I even pardoned those who wanted to kill me. I will give them arms. They will guard me. But this should be consolidated legislatively so that they can feel secure, that their dignity and manhood have been restored to them. This is because some of them were involved in treachery and conspiracy; they used to perpetrate dirty deeds. I mean you should not sleep and give weapons to someone who will conspire against you. This is illogical. Is he a dog? Is he a wolf? When you train a dog it will never betray you. No person should stoop to be even lower than a dog. I mean, there are people who became involved in some things. But they have paid the price of treachery. They paid the price of treachery, and we shared this payment with them because we were pained on their behalf.

Libya has become a state practicing injustice and oppression. These people are Libyans. Why do they harm their country in this manner? It looked as if Libya was preventing its citizens from traveling abroad. Libya is on the blacklist, and Libya is reportedly practicing injustice and oppression. Why should we allow our country to be like that? I want our country to be an example. You can travel anywhere in the world with your head raised high because Libya is the country of freedom where man enjoys his dignity, and his manhood has been restored to him. Libya should be the only free country, the country of idealism. This will be an honor to us all. It is an honor to all our children. It is far better for you to travel abroad with your head held high. Otherwise, you may do something which may harm your country; you would provide them with an opportunity to say that Libya is a state that practices injustice and oppression. We want the people's conferences to be convened in an emergency session to adopt laws that will make the Libyan citizen confident about his money, honor, life, and stability without feeling threatened at any hour.

When legislation is adopted by the people it becomes a sacred thing, and the one who made it is everlasting and always exists, that is, the people. But if it was made by a ruler, another ruler might come along and revoke it. For example, I made a revolutionary decision; tomorrow someone else in my place might come along and make a decision against freedom. I have released the prisoners; someone else might take my place and return the prisoners to prison. This is just an example.

'Abd al-Nasir made a decision; Al-Sadat came along afterward and made a decision to the contrary. This is because the person who did this was an individual. But the laws promulgated by the Libyan people will remain sacred and will be observed, because the one who made them exists and never changes, that is, the people; everlasting and always there. Here we have the resolutions of the people's congresses. They are sacred. [chants]

The people's congresses lay down a law which confirms the action we have taken. They legislate. Not only to make you yourselves feel assured but also to feel assured about your children and your future. Here is Hajjah 'Aliah, talking about her son. I will tell his story a little while later. Anyone like her in the future might be in the same situation. We do not want this tragedy to be repeated. She lives in a tragedy. The thing is that we do not want this tragedy to be repeated next year, or the year after that, or after 10 or 100 years. It must not be repeated. Freedom has triumphed this time, and freedom must not receive a setback again. There should be a thing which is sacred; sacred by the fact that the people make it a law.

The people's congresses will soon hold an emergency session on those bodies that are both necessary and evil. Their fate must be decided. The Criminal Investigation Department [CID] should be subordinate to the general people's conference. This department has been free up to this moment, and no one is responsible for it. I am telling you this. As long as we are building our country and reinforcing freedom on our soil, we should tell one another everything. This department follows no one. I am not a president. They do not follow me. A general secretariat for justice does not exist. They decentralized the investigation department, they came back and said make it centralized again, because it is better. Centralized under whom? Not under the general people's committee. Under whom should it come? It is under no one. Make it come under something. Make it come under the general people's conference, or people's control; give it a people's leadership.

Let the world hear us. We are speaking quite clearly. Here are some journalists from Germany. They hear this. This does not exist in Germany. It is a monopoly of

their governments, and the ruling party is the one that decides everything. As for us, it is the people who decide everything.

The story of these organs should come to an end. Who is to control them or under whom should they be subordinated? They should be made accountable at all times. They should be made accountable every year at popular congresses. When this is done, the people in the CID and other organs will be afraid. They will know that there is an alert organ of popular control behind them. They will know that the popular congresses might bring them to trial if they exceed their powers. This will make them stick to their job only. There should be no one to come and say: As long as I am afraid of the popular congresses and the popular congresses (?will punish him), that is the end of the CID. No. There is security. You stick to security. In the past there were excesses. There might be some excesses on the part of the security department. When this happens the people will put a stop to it. This is because this section is responsible to the people.

The popular congresses should also debate secret action. This should finally be prohibited on a free soil where power is in the hands of the people and where the people rule themselves. Anyone who has any idea whatsoever, he should raise it openly at the popular congresses. We want this to be stressed. Secret action, use of force, conspiring with foreigners: these three things must not exist on Libyan soil. Anyone who uses them should be made a criminal. His crime should be defined.

I am against the death penalty. Among the things that should be debated is the possibility of abolishing the death penalty. This is not the first time I have asked this of the popular congresses; 2, 3 or 4 years ago I asked for the abolition of the death penalty. The truth is that the death penalty should be abolished. It should be abolished throughout the world. The saying goes that the one who creates a man is able to kill him. This is an old saying. It means the one who created Adam is the one who has the right to kill him. You have not created this human being. Why do you kill him? You can imprison him, you can beat him, you can fine him, you can fight with him—but to kill, this should not be allowed except in battle. You can have someone under your control. You sentence him to death, hang him, string him up or kill him by firing squads—you have power over him—this is an abominable killing, an abominable execution.

I am against the death penalty throughout the world. But if the Libyan people say that it is necessary, they should define the crimes under which the death penalty can be passed. They must be as limited as possible if the penalty is necessary. About the story of killing; you can talk afterward about it at the popular congress.

Next, premeditated murder. What is premeditated murder? Unlawful killing. This must be clear: Unlawful killing, premeditated killing is something different. Someone has violated your honor. You killed deliberately. This is a deliberate killing and you have a right to do it. But to kill without the right to—someone whom you do not like, therefore you go and kill him—this is unlawful killing. It should be clear. This must be made clear.

But the things which we would like to legislate, which we would like to be understood by every Libyan, and which must not exist from now on, so that we may have other problems in the future are: Secret action, use of force, and action from abroad. No Libyan in the state of the masses should practice them. If a Libyan were ever to practice them, what should be the penalty against him? Why? It is because you have the right to say anything in the popular congresses. Why do you carry out a secret action? Whatever your idea, convince the people of it. Say it at the popular congress. The popular congresses will adopt it and then it will be implemented. If you have an idea, come out with it. As long as a forum for expressing it is provided and defending it is possible, and if you attempt to let people accept it, then there is no justification for you to carry it out in secret. Also, the use of force means that your idea is not acceptable. Therefore you are imposing it on the people.

Today the situation is democratic and the rule is a people's rule. How can you use force against these masses in seeking to impose what you want, or conspire to use a military unit, weapons, explosives, or a group of people in order to impose something by force, like what happened in the election at a soap factory. A group of people attacked by force and beat up those inside. How can there be a march like this at this period in time? How can it happen? We should be seated, smoking and quite at ease, to make decisions and appointments, and to make the most serious decision—while we are sitting down. Are we at the stage of beatings or trampling, or of going to a factory in order to beat up or trample on someone? People like these are the ones who should be on trial. This is a conspiracy against democracy.

How can it be? Some workers get together. They should decide who is to be elected. Agreement is reached and that is the end of the matter. How can we expel someone and put another person in by force? Rules on the use of force should be made clear at the popular congresses. This is about using weapons, an organized force, or human force—and even the human force which you bring about through the use of muscles or slogans—in order to open a door or hit someone, as happened at the soap factory. This is a good example of the use of force. This must be prohibited. Your idea is democratic; put it forward. If the people accept it or not that is the end of it. You must not impose it by force.

As for conspiring with abroad, we do not need to seek help from abroad. This is your people. You deal with it. Convince it. These are things which the popular congresses should debate. We want Libyans to feel assured

about their future and freedom, their lives and possessions. They should devote their time to production and to the struggle for freedom and for liberation—the liberation of Palestine and against imperialism.

The other point affects any Libyan who claims that his possessions have been taken away from him without right. We want the popular congresses to define the quarter—the people's court—and we want this question to be brought to an end. Any Libyan—after the revolution, and especially after the release of the second chapter of the Green Book, and the implementation of the new socialism—any Libyan who says that he has been unjustly treated should come forward to the people's court so that it can re-examine his case. If someone comes along and says: This property is the property of my father and I have inherited it from him. My father through his own toil established this property and you have taken it away from me. It should be returned to him to the last cent. But I am sure that all the people whose property was taken away—I said this to you previously—this property did not belong to them but to the people. They have taken it away from the people and the people have recovered their property. Anyone who built a house built it with money from the bank. It was returned to the bank, that is, to the people.

Anyone who was a contractor—where did he get the contracts? Did his mother bring the contracts while he was still unborn or did he have a right. It was exploitation, and exploitation gave him the right and he exploited it and he became a rich man. He should not say this is my property. Bring me someone who has a farm which he inherited from his father and forefather. If they came and took it away, this is fine. Refer it to the people's court. At the people's court, any Libyan who can say they took away my property, or this is an orphan family whose building was taken away, this one had some money in the bank, or sold my gold, or this garden was taken away from me; the money was taken away from me and even the gold was taken away from me—where did he get the gold from? From the bank. He took it in the form of a loan. He was an official and exploited his position and obtained gold through it. It is not enough to say: I have sold my wife's gold and bought the building with it. Your wife's gold—where did it come from? You took it from us, from our money. You exploited us and whether you are a contractor or commissioning agent or have been taking bribes; you take things like that and you buy gold with it.

You must not come and say that it is gold and that we have to believe it. At other times, you might have had gold which was 50 years old and sold it. You bought something with the money and they came and took that something. This is your property. Something which you have acquired through your own toil and sweat must return to you. Also, there are things which were taken away from people, even if they were from the people's treasury or whatever. But if you are an orphan and live in a building which is stolen, then we can look into something like this. Not necessarily a building—let us say a house; then that house may be returned or compensated for. This is one point. Compensation is possible for people whose property had been taken away during the March process. If the property belongs to them there will be no one who would remain unjustly treated.

The other point is like the case which is in front of me. There were some people who died in prison, died as a result of an illness, or died during interrogation or excesses in the interrogation—and I must say this—or they have been sentenced and they were physically liquidated in accordance with the sentence. These things happened in the past. The number is limited. Most certainly for 18, 19, or 20 years there must have been some cases of treason, conspiracies, and executions. The death penalty exists in Libyan law, the law which I said you should abolish. It exists; you do not want to abolish it. If you do not abolish it then it remains in operation until it is abolished.

Death sentences have been carried out in accordance with the law which exists in matters like this. The important thing is that it must not be repeated. Good. Let us say that someone, or a cell, infiltrates the revolutionary committees and is discovered by the revolutionary committees. Instead of being real revolutionary committees which incite the people to practice authority, they are linked with foreign powers and undermine the revolutionary committees from within, and they meet at home instead of meeting at the centers. The revolutionary committees passed sentences on them and they were liquidated. God is victorious.

What can we say? Generally, people dying in prison is a thing of the past. Some died of natural causes. It would have been better if we had informed their next of kin. Let us hope this will not be repeated in the future, God willing. But anyone who dies might have died anyway. Death comes to people, in prison or outside. If someone dies in prison, we should inform his next of kin and tell them that he died. When someone is sentenced to death and the sentence is carried out, his family should be informed accordingly—what his crime was, and that he could not defend himself in court. He was convicted because he committed treason or conspired. This is clear and well-known. But the group whose end came in prison, whether under interrogation or death in prison or executed, the number of this group is very small. The people's court is to look into it.

If there is one whose family is entitled to blood money then society will pay the family this blood money. No harm done. We settle the account of the past and turn the page. If there is a transgression—someone who was killed unjustifiably, for example—by God, if there is evidence that someone who carried out the interrogation and got to that post, for example, by infiltrating the

revolution and proceeded to kill the people, then some people will say that the revolution is killing people. This can happen. He should be exposed.

Maybe they will expose a person who killed someone unjustifiably, deliberately, because he had a quarrel with him. For this he arrested him, tortured him, and the arrested person died. This means that the criminal is the person who made the arrest and detained the captive and tortured him and killed him; he is the murderer.

We go to the People's Court.

Those whose families are in need and are told that their sons, God willed, died because they were unjust to themselves and died—we should look into the affair of such a family because the breadwinner has left them behind.

The families whose sons are in detention should know the fate of their sons; they should be told that they were executed. Then they would have known that their son was in contact with a foreign quarter and subverted the revolution from within and held meetings at home instead of at the headquarters, and voiced matters which were contrary to the people's authority. Alright, go and arrest such people, try them and execute them.

Regrettably, some events did take place contrary to this—these issues should be looked into by the people's court—the cases where you have to pay blood money, the cases where you have to help the family of the condemned person, the cases where the family of the condemned is in need. The important thing is that we should legislate so that the People's Court will look into these cases.

One thing must be confirmed—that authority rests with the Libyan people and the Libyans alone. It is not permitted for any attempt to be made which is contrary to the people's authority. That is to say no person can do anything to wrest the authority from the people. If you have an idea, put it to the people. Anyone who proposes to rule the people and take authority from them can do so by proposing the idea to the people. Any Libyan can say to the Libyan people: O Libyan people, I am the best one to rule you, so give me absolute authority and go home. Alright, good: If you, Libyans, approve of that, then let him shoulder this responsibility. Then, a month or 2 months, or a year or 2 later, see where he has taken you and what it has led to—to hell or to paradise. See for yourselves.

If you want to rule the Libyan people, propose that to the Libyan people. Put forward your qualifications and present your case; show them how clever and skillful you are—tell them my name is such and such, and I am a graduate from the mental hospital and want to rule you. [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs] He who proposes an idea such as this is definitely mad.

Therefore, any person who has an idea should submit it to the people's authority. All of us should make sure that authority in Libya lies with the people, and the people exercise this authority by way of the people's conferences and the people's committees. No one should have ambitions just because there is freedom.

Some person may say: I want to establish an authority which is an alternative to the people's authority. He can do so only if this is approved by the conferences. If the conferences say: This idea is good, go and form a party through which to rule us, then the person may begin to carry out his proposal. The person should not form a party and start talking about it in the street openly. Such action is regarded as being contrary to the people's authority. One should go to the conference and tell the conference that he intends to form a party. If the conference approves, it will refer it to the other people's conferences for adoption. Then the matter will be legal.

In conclusion, I would like to express my confidence in the Libyan people, and would like to say that the Libyan people are good people; they like each other. The Libyan people rejoiced to see those who have betrayed them released from prisons; the Libyan people were happy to see the people who conspired against them with foreign help being released. I have confidence that these people are not wicked at all; they are very sincere and loyal people. I am sure that those who left prisons will be sincere and loyal to this people. I swear to you that I will not hesitate to give arms to those who were released from prisons, and even those who conspired against me and wanted to assassinate me, in order to guard me. This is because I am confident of myself and I am confident of the people. [cheers and applause]

At the same time we want to maintain this momentum, so that it will go abroad—let it overflow—to beyond the manufactured borders of Libya. We want all prisons in the Arab homeland to be destroyed, and all prisoners to be released. After that—after what you did—Zine El Abidine in Tunisia released thousands of people and reduced their sentences. That was a glorious action which made us feel that freedom has begun to triumph on the Arab land. In order to liberate Palestine we should liberate the Arab citizen inside, liberate him from fear, exploitation, ignorance, and poverty. Libyans who are abroad are not conspirators. They can all return to Libya unconditionally and without restrictions. He who does not return is the agent who is linked with American and Israeli intelligence. A Libyan who cannot return—we do not try him here and do not arrest him, any Libyan can enter Libya 1,000 times and leave—a Libyan who does not return is linked to American and Israeli intelligence. Those who used to be abroad and conspired were the stray dogs of American and Israeli intelligence.

We are proud today that freedom is being consolidated on Libyan land and that dignity is being bolstered, and that the Libyan citizen and Libyan family are assured of

their honor, dignity, money, and future. Brothers, proceed toward production and construction and the realization of our great aims. Forward; the struggle is still continuing. [cheers and applause]

Media Campaigns Against Egypt 'Suspended'

JN271230 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
24 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned from well-informed diplomatic sources that Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has told Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani, during his recent visit to Tripoli, that he wishes to send a ranking Libyan envoy to Cairo for talks aimed at settling problems pending between them, particularly following the return of the four Libyan aircraft by President Husni Mubarak.

The sources said that Saudi and Sudanese contacts with Egypt and Libya have resulted in the suspension of media campaigns between the two countries, and that the Voice of the Libyan People, which Egypt broadcasts 3 times a week, has been suspended

The sources added that Libya also suspended the Voice of Free Egypt.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Voices Support for Saudis

JN281813 Khartoum SUNA in English 1724 GMT
28 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March 28 (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr. Ma'mun Sanadah has renewed Sudan's unconditional support for Saudi Arabia against Israeli threats to attack bases of the recently purchased Saudi missiles. The minister today received the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Sudan 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Sudayri and reviewed with him bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

The minister is reported to have told the ambassador that Sudan considers Saudi Arabia as its eastern strategic depth and that any threats against Saudi Arabia would be taken seriously by the Sudan. He told the ambassador today that Sudan would put all its potentialities at the disposition of Saudi Arabia in face of any foreign aggression. He pinpointed [as received] to Saudi right to use these missiles to defend its territories.

U.S. Request for Bases Reportedly Rejected

JN261152 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT
26 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March 26, (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government has refused to allow the United States of America to build military bases or to conduct military manoeuvres in the country, the daily AL-SUDANI issued here today reported. The Sudanese Government in reply to the U.S. Administration request confirmed its commitment to the policy of non-alignment.

Quoting diplomatic sources here the daily said the U.S ambassador to Sudan has asked in the name of his government the Sudanese Government to allow establishing military bases in the Red Sea area (eastern Sudan) to contain what it termed "the threats facing the U.S.A. and to protect its installations." The Sudanese Government in its reply confirmed it will not permit using its territories for military bases or manoeuvers, the paper said. It is to be recalled that the ousted President Numayri had offered U.S. facilities to build military bases in Sudan.

Tunisia

President Sends Message of Support to Saudis

LD281909 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has sent a cable to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. Here is its text:

We have been following with great concern the threats made by the Zionist entity in the aftermath of the defense equipment recently received by the Kingdom. While reaffirming our solidarity with and support for you against any aggression against the sanctity of your territories, I would like to stress our absolute support for your legitimate right to possess the means you deem necessary to ward off any aggression, to protect the security and safety of your brotherly country, and to defend the interests of the Arab nation and those that are held sacred by all Muslims. While strongly condemning blatant Zionist threats, we stress our active solidarity and praise your courageous stand.

PDRY

Troops Reportedly Massed on Border With YAR

JN291113 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] The Al-Shariqah paper AL-KHALIJ today reports that the PDRY and YAR have massed a large section of their military forces on their common border as a result of a dispute over the exploitation of oil fields in border areas.

North Yemen Prime Minister Arrives in Aden

EA282214 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the Permanent Committee of the northern part of the homeland, arrived in Aden this afternoon leading a high-level delegation on a visit to the southern part of the homeland lasting several days.

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani was accorded a very big reception at Aden International Airport. Leading those welcoming him were Brothers Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Salih Munasir al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and minister of the interior; Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, candidate member of the Central Committee, first deputy minister of defense, and chief of the general staff; Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals; Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the Central Committee and minister of state for unity affairs; Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and information; and a number of other members of the Central Committee, ministers, and their deputies.

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani gave a statement to the press in which he said: I am pleased to express, at the outset, my deep gratitude for the brotherly and good reception and the cordial and generous welcome accorded us. We are very happy indeed today to be in the beloved south of the homeland among our brothers in brave Aden. We are happy to bring you the greetings and good wishes of your brothers in the northern part of the homeland, above all from Brother Brigadier 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

He clarified that the visit is for the purpose of holding talks and renewing contacts with officials in the southern part of the homeland, above all with the brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau, and Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers. It is taking place within the framework of exchanges of visits and meetings between the two parts of the homeland to continue the unity efforts which requires from us all greater coordination and consultation on all important national matters and subjects of common interest on national, regional, and international levels.

He went on to say that the unity steps achieved since the agreements of Cairo, Tripoli, and Kuwait, as well as the agreements which followed in Sanaa, Aden, and Taiz, and including the achievements and gains of the Higher Yemeni Council, the Joint Ministerial Committee and the other joint committees, summon us to advance further with our unity activities toward more gains and achievements and to develop coordination in various fields, such as the economic and joint investment projects within the framework of joint concern and to adhere to the principles which will ensure their success, thus strengthening the fundamental pillars of the unity of the homeland, in terms of both territory and people. He went on to say: We are determined to march forward with our brothers in the southern part of the homeland along the road of unity and overcome all the difficulties inherited from the years of division.

He expressed confidence that these coming meetings would strengthen our unity steps, which were under the scrutiny of the masses in all parts of Yemen, who regarded them with hope and optimism. They believed that unity would ensure for them the embodiment of the objectives of the glorious September and October revolutions and the realization of Yemeni reunification by peaceful and democratic means.

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Ghani's delegation includes Lieutenant Colonel Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of the general staff and member of the Permanent Committee; Dr 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, interior minister and member of the Permanent Committee; Yahya Husayn al-Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and member of the permanent committee; Eng Ahmad 'Ali al-Muhanni, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; Lt Col Dirham Abduh Nu'man, governor of the Province of Maribu and member of the Permanent Committee; Lt Col 'Ali Muhsin Salih, military officer in charge of the first province and member of the permanent commission; Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Malik al-Ulufi, head of the Survey Department; Muhammad al-Safidi, secretary of the Higher Council of Oil; 'Abd al-Rabb Sinan Abu Luhum, director general at the Oil Ministry; Ahmad al-Adrai from the Survey Department; and Muhammad Sa'id Zafir, deputy director of the Prime Minister's Office.

Meets With Al-Bid

EA282218 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, this afternoon met Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the Permanent Committee in the northern part of the homeland, whjo conveyed to

him and the political leadership of the southern part of the homeland the greetings of Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress and the political leadership of the northern part of the homeland.

During the meeting, which was attended by Brother Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, the brother secretary general welcomed the visit of Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani to the southern part of the homeland, which comes within the framework of the periodic meetings to promote unity action in all the economic, social and political fields.

He stressed the importance of taking practical and tangible steps to create the material foundation and the appropriate conditions to reunify the Yemeni homeland. He pointed out that the Yemeni people were in need of security and stability to exploit their natural resources and achieve economic development for the prosperity and progress of the Yemeni people and their homeland.

Saudi Arabia

King Chairs Cabinet Session on 'Israeli Threats'

LD281916 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1545 GMT
28 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 28 Mar (SPA)—Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over a cabinet meeting held this afternoon at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said: Under royal instruction, the Council reviewed at the beginning of today's session the stands of all sisterly Arab countries, the leaderships and media of which, through cables, letters, and envoys, have expressed their brotherly solidarity with and support for the Kingdom vis-a-vis repeated Israeli threats to strike against the missiles purchased by the Kingdom to defend its land and that which it holds sacred.

In light of this King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, said: There is no doubt these Arab stands declared by our brothers through various media express their full and complete solidarity and support for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which has been honored by God to serve the two holy shrines and protect those that are held sacred by Muslims. There is no doubt that these stands clearly indicate the sincerity of Muslim sentiments toward the most holy part of earth and, consequently, indicate the spirit of the Arab nobility of descent which we sense from them always and at all times. [passage omitted]

He added: "I would like, on this occasion, to affirm to everyone that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will continue to implement the approved defense programs and will continue its Islamic mission and its Arab duties, relying on God Almighty and then on its sons and the Kingdom's defense potential and capabilities. We never forget the brothers' cooperation and backing for us or with their standing by our side, which is the side of the legitimate right to exercise our sovereignty on our soil and to defend the citadels of our homeland and the Muslims' sanctities."

The beloved king also said:" At the same time, I would like also to express my thanks and appreciation to the friendly states which have announced their denunciation and condemnation of the Israeli threats against the Kingdom and which have warned against the consequences of carrying out such acts of aggression against any Arab state." [passage omitted]

Information Minister al-Sha'ir went on to say: "The Council of Ministers also reviewed the results and resolutions of the 17th conference of the ICO foreign ministers held in Amman on 22 March 1988. The Council of Ministers expressed its satisfaction and appreciation for the Islamic achievements encompassed by the conference's resolutions in a collective spirit of tremendous solidarity which confirms the Islamic nation's adherence to the wording of the holy verse "And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God (stretches out for you) and be not divided among yourselves". [Koranic verse]

The custodian of the two holy mosques described the results of this conference as being in line with the aspirations of the Islamic nation and above the hopes which the peoples pin on their leaders and said:" We thank God very much for this great success."

The information minister added:" Afterward, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz informed the council about the results of the talks and meetings he held with a number of top level guests who came to the Kingdom from various Arab and other states of the world.

In this respect, the custodian of the two holy mosques discussed with the Council the Kingdom's political directions with regard to the topical issues in the Arab and Islamic arenas. He reiterated the Kingdom's readiness to confront any emergency contingency which threatens its integrity and harms its dignity and will not hesitate to carry out the most noble of duties, namely, the defense of God's holy house and its sanctity and His prophet's mosque by all available means.

He indicated that the Kingdom with its well-known intentions and policy does not approve of interference in others' affairs, condemns aggression by any state against other states, and denounces acts of violence, arbitrariness, terrorism, piracy, and sabotage. Therefore, how can it accept them on its own soil from any state while we are calling for peace and endeavor for stability and security, and while we

demand the enforcement of justice and peace and the restoration of all usurped rights of the recovery of all stolen lands?" [quotation marks as received]

The king stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's relations with all countries of the world are based primarily on the principle of its adherence to its Islamic faith in all its dealings, its political and economic interests, and interests in all other spheres. [passage omitted]

Morocco's Osman Voices Support for Kingdom
LD281728 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 28 Mar (MAP)—Morocco has declared its support for and absolute solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in confronting Israeli threats. The spokesman of the Moroccan parliament, Ahmed Osman, who left Riyadh today, Monday, at the end of a visit to Saudi Arabia where he delivered a message from King Hassan II to King Fahd, said that Morocco, its king, government, and people affirmed their absolute solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the face of the threats made by the Zionist entity.

In an interview with Saudi television and its agency, Ahmed Osman said: The strengthening by Saudi Arabia of its defensive forces with medium-range missiles comes in the context of its exercising its sovereignty. He said the fact that Saudi Arabia is reinforcing its defensive capabilities is a very important gain for pan-Arabism, for security, and for peace, because whenever the forces of Saudi Arabia are strengthened, the forces of Islam and pan-Arabism, which need to be reinforced, are also strengthened. [passage omitted]

Osman described the position expressed by the Israeli prime minister as contrary to international standards and norms and frivolous and stupid.

Algerian President Cables Support to Fahd
LD281942 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1750 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 28 Mar (SPA)—Algeria has announced its total and complete solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in facing the Israeli threats of aggression. This has come in a message which the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has received from his brother, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. Here follows the text of the message:

"To the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

I have learned with great indignation about the threats made by the Zionist entity against the sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Such threats confirm indeed the aggressive nature of this entity at a time when the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people is confronting the Zionist military means of destruction in the occupied land. By announcing its criminal intentions against your sister country, the Zionist entity is trying as usual to escalate tension and divert the attention of the international community away from the situation prevailing in the occupied Arab territories.

In these circumstances I express to you Algeria's total and complete solidarity. Please accept, dear brother, the highest expressions of my consideration and respect.

Your brother Chadli Bendjedid." [passage omitted]

Arab League's Klibi on Pilgrimage, 'Threats'
LD251739 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1525 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Tunis, 25 Mar (SPA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi expressed the League's full support for the measures which Saudi Arabia intends to adopt to prevent any possible disturbance to next year's pilgrimage season. In a statement to SPA, he said: The Arab League considers that Saudi Arabia is right in its good efforts in this concern. He added that the Iranian disturbances and sabotage, which harmed last year's pilgrimage rites, violated the sanctity of the holy places, and harmed the peace and security of the pilgrims, cause us to warn against the dangers of repeating anything that contradicts the traditions of pilgrimage and the tolerant principles of Islam.

He stressed the Arab League's solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its commitment to the resolutions of the recent extraordinary summit meeting in Amman and also to the resolutions of the recent ICO foreign ministers' conference. He said: They have all supported Saudi Arabia's resolutions for organizing the pilgrimage season in a way which guarantees the safety of the pilgrims and the security of the Kingdom in addition to preserving the sanctity of this important Islamic rite, its serenity, and its absolute dedication to worship.

On another level, the Arab League secretary general described the recent Israeli threats against Saudi Arabia's security as something that again exposes the dangers of Israeli logic which is based on monopolizing all the means of military attack and superiority against the forces of the Arab countries in the region, together with denying the legitimate right of any Arab country to defend itself on the pretext that this would threaten Israel's security.

In his statement to SPA Chedli Klibi added: In view of Israel's blatant threats to Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Arabism and Islam, all the Arab countries denounce and strongly condemn the Zionist aggressive policy and stress that they will firmly confront anything that threatens the safety and security of Saudi Arabia.

Ramadan Backs Saudis, Threatens 'Retaliation'

JN281727 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has affirmed that any aggression against Saudi territories by the Zionist entity will face a decisive Iraqi retaliation. During a seminar held by the teachers and students of the Baghdad University on Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah and international relations, he said that Iraq backs and encourages any Arab country's efforts at modern weapons, aimed at reinforcing its defensive capabilities, and consequently, increasing the power of the Arab nation. He also affirmed that Iraq is vigorously working to strengthen joint Arab action to confront the dangers surrounding the Arab nation and to achieve a unified Arab position toward any aggression against any Arab country by a foreign state.

Ramadan praised the clear-cut Arab position on the Iraq-Iran war adopted during the Amman summit, which led to a declared unified Islamic position toward the war taken during the conference of the Islamic states' foreign ministers in Amman. The conference urged the Iranian regime to accept Security Council Resolution No 598. He added that ending the war will be achieved only through the Iraqis' steadfastness in the face of the Iranian aggression, and through the crushing of Iran's resources, which help it continue the aggression. He also said that the new situation in Iraq and the development of its combat capabilities during wartime have startled the enemies of the Arab nation, foremost of which is the Zionist entity.

Ramadan also stressed Iraq's insistence on the need to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 in the proper sequence of its provisions—a resolution which expresses the will of the international community. He also affirmed that the implementation of this resolution is viewed as a base for a comprehensive solution to the Iraq-Iran war. He also reviewed the Iranian enemy's repeated aggressions before the outbreak of the war on 4 September, 1980, and the Iraqi retaliation on 22 September. He also touched on the positions of the fraternal and friendly countries and their understanding of Iraq's position, which has been made clear through hundreds of official documents and statements.

The seminar, organized last night by Baghdad University to celebrate the science day on which the university was honored by granting an honorary doctorate in law to leader President Saddam Husayn on 27 March, 1984, was attended by Mundhir Ibrahim, minister of higher education and scientific research; Najih Muhammad Khalil, head of the Scientific Research Council; the secretary and members of the Al-Rashid Ba'th Party branch office; the universities' presidents; and the heads of the university faculties.

Iranian Opposition Promises More Attacks

JN281833 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Mar (INA)—Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the opposition Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, has promised to escalate the military operations against the Iranian regime. In a speech during celebrations held by the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] in one of its bases on the new year on 21 March, he said that the Khomeyniite regime will receive more severe blows by the INLA during the new year. He stressed that the INLA is fighting to overthrow the Khomeyniite regime.

The INLA has carried out 100 operations, killing or wounding 8,450 and capturing 865.

Chemical Strikes on Iranian Cities Considered

JN290628 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—PETRA—An authorized Iraqi spokesman has said that in response to Iran's chemical weapons attack on the border city of Halabjah and its destruction, and after it has been proved that Iran has used chemical weapons against many villages and civilian citizens in many areas in Iraq, Iraq may select a number of major Iranian cities as targets for chemical weapons as a deterrent and retaliatory measure for what Iran has done to the border city of Halabjah, and its use of chemical weapons against it.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,100

JN271753 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,100 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With renewed morale and effective performance, our victorious Armed Forces are continuing their heroic operations, inflicting severe punishment on the Khomeyniites. The results of these operations for last night and today are as follows:

1. The planes of our heroic Air Force flew 61 combat missions, inflicting new losses on the aggressors' scoundrels, weapons, and equipment. Our brave planes also raided the city of Hamadan, scoring a destructive hit at 1052 [0752 GMT] today. After carrying out all of their duties, all of our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

2. The brave knights of the helicopter gunships inflicted other losses on the enemy's personnel, weapons, and equipment. They flew 53 combat missions and returned safely to their bases. God be praised.

3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector killed 27 scoundrels, destroyed 6 infantry positions and 1 60-mm mortar gun, burned and destroyed 1 vehicle, and blew up 5 ammunition dumps.

4. Two enemy machineguns were destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. One enemy soldier was killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. One enemy soldier was killed, two infantry positions were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. One scoundrel was killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

8. One infantry position was destroyed and one shovel [preceding word in English] was burned and destroyed on the VII Army Corps front.

9. The brave Al-'Amiq port force spotted seven enemy boats trying to approach the port yesterday, confronted them, and forced them to flee.

10. At 0747 today, the tyrannical Iranian rulers fired a missile at the city of Baghdad. The missile landed in a residential area, martyring or wounding a number of dear citizens, including women and children, and damaging a number of houses and cars. The criminal enemy also shelled residential areas in the cities of Basra, Mayzan Al-Qurnah, Khanaqin, Qal'at Salih, Al-Majjar al-Kabir, Badrah, Al-Musharrah, and 'Ali al-Garbi last night and today with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling martyred or wounded a number of civilians, including women and children, and damaged a number of houses, shops, and other property.

Mercy and forgiveness to our martyrs and a swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 March 1988

Communique No 3,102

JN281747 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,102 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is our heroic Armed Forces' operations in the operation sectors last night and today:

1. The planes of our heroic Air Force carried out 235 combat missions, wiping out many groups of the scoundrel aggressors, destroying many of their positions, as well as their equipment, weapons, and vehicles, and carrying out the following duties in the Arabian Gulf and the enemy's territories:

a. Our planes raided a large maritime target near the Shaykh Sho'eyb [Lavan Island] last night, scoring an accurate and effective hit.

b. At 1000 [0700 GMT] today, our planes raided the city of Kuhdasht.

c. At 1019 today, our planes raided the city of Ilam.

d. At 1044 today, our planes raided the city of Dezful.

e. At 1300 today, our planes raided the city of Borujerd.

After carrying out these duties, all our planes returned safely to base, except one which fell over enemy territory. We hold the Iranian side responsible for the safety of the pilot.

2. Our helicopter gunships continued their raids on the aggressors' positions, troop concentrations, equipment, weapons, and vehicles, inflicting important losses on them. After carrying out 45 combat missions, the knights of the helicopter gunships returned safely to their bases. God be praised.

3. Our units killed 68 scoundrels, wounded others, destroyed 1 armored personnel carrier, 2 infantry positions, and 1 shovel [preceding word in English], and blew up 1 ammunition dump in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. One machinegun and one observation post were destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. One ammunition dump was blown up and four various positions and three observation posts were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. One mortar gun emplacement and one shelter were destroyed and one ammuniton dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. Five enemy personnel were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

8. Three enemy personnel were killed, one 106-mm gun, one shovel, and two various positions were destroyed and one vehicle was burned in the VII Army Corps front.

9. The criminal Iranian regime continued to shell residential areas in the cities of Basra, Khanaqin, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Badrah, Qal'at Salih, Al-Dayr, Al-Qurnah, and (Qazaniyah) with long-range artillery. The hostile

shelling martyred or wounded a number of our citizens, including women and children, and damaged a number of houses and other properties. Mercy to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 March 1988

Offensive in Shush Area 28 Mar

JN290710 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Excerpts] In the Gulf war Iran expands its offensive in Iraqi Kurdistan while Iraq announces a wide-scale offensive inside Iranian territory. [passage omitted]

Tehran announced that its offensive in Iraqi Kurdistan has enabled the Revolution Guards to occupy 1,400 square km in Kurdistan. The Iranian premier declared that the victory has brought the possibility of Iranian victory closer. Baghdad, which confirmed it lost territory in the area, has declared its intention to destroy the Iranian aggressors with all available means. [passage omitted]

Iraq announced that 15 army corps [faylaq] launched an important offensive in the Shush area in Khuzestan, western Iran, thus threatening the roads southwest of Dezful. However, Tehran announced that Iraqi units supported by the "monafeqin"—the term used by Iran for referring to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, which is armed, and which opposes the Iranian regime—launched an attack in the Fakkeh area in the early hours of 28 March. Tehran said the attackers were repulsed and did not achieve any success.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization announced its forces launched their biggest offensive so far inside Iranian territory on 28 March and carried out an operation codenamed ("Khosheh Sabam"), that is "The Shining Sun," southwest of Dezful. Mojahedin-e Khalq asserted that its forces control 600 square km in the Shush area as well as the road between Dezful and the border town of Fakkeh.

2 'Very Large' Ships Hit

JN290617 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 29 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The planes of our heroic Air Force carried out two successful raids on two very large maritime targets off the Iranian coast last night. They dealt them accurate and effective blows. Our planes then returned safely to base with God's care.

[Dated] 29 March 1988

Residential Areas in Basra Hit

JN291140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Basra, 29 Mar (INA)—A child from Basra, whose name is Shyma' 'Ali Husayn, 7-years old, a pupil in the second elementary class, was standing with her 5-year old sister Zaynab near their house after returning from school when an Iranian bomb fell on them, killing them both.

An INA correspondent in Basra said the city and all its densely populated areas were exposed to Iranian long-range artillery shelling last night and today. The shelling martyred several citizens, including an 18-month old child, wounded several others, including children, women, and old people, and damaged several houses, shops, and civilian cars and property.

Agreement Reached on Irangate Investigation
TA281753 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] The Israeli Government has reached an agreement with the U.S special prosecutor in the Irangate affair to cooperate with his investigation. In exchange for the government's cooperation it was agreed not to enforce the subpoenas issued by the prosecutor to David Kimche, Ya'aqov Nimrodi, and Al Schwimmer. The Israeli Embassy in Washington announced that Israel has already handed over documents, describing its involvement in the affair, and written clarifications in reply to questions relayed to the special prosecutor.

Our Washington correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the agreement was reached in negotiations the cabinet secretary and Israeli lawyers conducted over the last few days with the U.S. special prosecutor.

Peres Comments on Palestinian Situation, PLO
LD282006 Paris International Service in French
1315 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Edouard Dor in Jerusalem, with Patricia Lesmonniere of TF-1; David Dor, head of AFP's Jerusalem office: Alain Fraction of LE MONDE; Shalom Cohen of LIBERATION; Henri Binvolle, correspondent of Radio France Internationale in Jerusalem; and Station Diplomatic Department Correspondent Olivier Delage; individual questioners not identified; from the "Press Club" progarm; date not specified—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Dor] Shim'on Peres, first of all thank you for welcoming us here in your office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem for this edition of Radio France Internationale's Press Club. [passage omitted] My first question, Shim'on Peres, will of course concern the current situation in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank which have been seething with unrest since 9 December 1987. First of all, how do you assess these events?

[Peres] Both the Arabs and ourselves have a real problem: We have a problem because we know very well that the solution to the situation will be a political one and not military. This also applies to the Arabs. If one has a few successes, it is extremely difficult to translate that success into political reality. Hence, for the moment we do not have a partner to discuss the political solutions with and in my opinion the Palestinians do not have anyone to guide them toward a solution.

[Question] If I may complete Edouard Dor's question; what is currently going on in the West Bank and Gaza? Is it agitation, is it a revolt, is it an uprising?

[Peres] The problem is not what one calls it, the problem is the solution and in my opinion the solution can only be a political solution for the Palestinians and for ourselves, or the Jordanians, Palestinians and ourselves. We must try and seriously find a solution which is going to meet their individual desires and national desires. There are also Israel's security considerations.

[Question] Mr Minister, do you have the impression after 3 and 1/2 months of troubles that there is the beginning of a military solution?

[Peres] No, no. [passage omitted]

[Question] Mr Minister, I would like you to talk about the Israeli Army whose actions have been called into question on several occasions over the past few weeks. Do you remain convinced that the course being taken is the best means for restoring order in the occupied territories?

[Peres] One always has to consider the alternatives: What can the army do? In truth there is no other serious option because in my opinion the army is following these principles: First, to keep Israel as an open society. As you know there are many problems with the media but it is not the media who are responsible; it is our choice to remain a state which is completely open. Second, to save human lives. [passage omitted] I am convinced that Minister of National Defense Rabin has saved human lives—Jewish and Arab lives—with his actions. The third point is that the army does not believe a military solution exists. We are going to keep watch on the laws and peace and security but in the end it is you, the politicians, who have to find a permanent solution, a serious solution. [passage omitted]

[Question] [Passage omitted] You said you are against the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Do you think such a position can be justified and do you think the Palestinians do not in principle have a right to have their own independent state alongside the State of Israel?

[Peres] That is not the problem because there is already a country which includes the Palestinians and the Jordanians—60 percent of the people in Jordan are Palestinians and all the Palestinians who are on the West Bank are Jordanian citizens. It is completely possible that the solution to the Palestinian problem is within a Jordanian-Palestinian framework. That is the solution in my view, the best one for all of us. [Question] As you know Mr Peres, the demonstrators on the West Bank have often—particularly quite recently—chanted slogans hostile to King Husayn. Do you think that making peace with King Husayn will suffice to make peace with the Palestinians?

[Peres] [Passage omitted] The fact remains that all the Palestinians, without exception, kept their Jordanian passports. For us, the legitimate party is the Jordanian and Palestinian party. Talleyrand said one day that the

most important political instrument after war was legitimacy. From the viewpoint of legitimacy there is no doubt that the valid interlocutors, partners, are the Jordanians and the Palestinians.

[Question] And your enemy is the PLO?

[Peres] Our enemy is the party which seeks war and violence.

[Question] And how can one make peace if one does not make peace with one's enemy?

[Peres] No, we are ready to make...[Peres changes thought] The Jordanians are also our enemies; the Jordanians have declared war on us. There are many Palestinians who are against us. The Syrians are against us. We have a variety of enemies; we can choose if you like. The problem with the PLO is not its history, it is not the biographies of its leaders; the problem with the Palestinians is very simple: They demanded a state with an army and probably an army which would be in the (?heart) of Jerusalem with Soviet arms, 100 meters from here. After five wars you will not find Israelis who will seriously accept a hostile army with Soviet weapons around Jerusalem—that is impossible. With the Jordanians and the other sides, we may find a solution where a few areas or several parts would be completely demilitarized. That is the big difference, among others.

[Question] Mr Minister, in the territories your interlocutor today is in fact the mysterious Unitied Uprising Committee: after nearly 4 months do you know who the members of this committee are and can you possibly consider them as valid interlocutors?

[Peres] No, I do not know them. I do not think that for the moment they are valid interlocutors. But I do know the Palestinian leaders on the West Bank who are serious and authentic, who have the courage to undertake negotiations, and who perhaps think like the PLO! [as heard] It is not up to us to censure their thoughts, their desires: Our censure is only of their weapons, their violence. We also (?have) the Jordanians who are well-informed and the Eygptians, who are here in the West Bank, the real leaders of the Palestinian people, who prefer serious negotiations with us. We are ready to have negotiations with them. [passage omitted]

[Question] Do you think, Mr Minister, that order has to be restored before discussions are held or should both happen at the same time?

[Peres] Both at the same time. Negotiations have to be held without a connection being made to events on the West Bank: One must try and calm the situation down on the West Bank without connecting that to political negotiations. The two things are separate.

[Question] How do you assess the meeting Mr Shultz had with two members of the Palestine National Council, which is rather the parliament of the PLO?

[Peres] Mr Shultz asked for my advice, I told him I was against it.

[Question] You have mentioned Palestinians on the outside: In the context of a settlement, what place do you give them, what right do you give them to come here where they were born?

[Peres] In my opinion the negotiations should be undertaken by the leaders who are here, who live with their people, who know about things in an everyday fashion, in a real fashion. If you ask me, I prefer the leaders who are here. [passage omitted]

[Question] Before 9 December you proposed an international conference. Have these past 3 months changed your perception of the Palestinian problem and if so, how?

[Peres] I think the events on the West Bank have merely demonstrated the urgency to open immediate negotiations and I think the international conference is the only door, for the moment, to open the negotiations. As for myself or for Israel, we do not feel the need for an international conference. Obviously, we prefer direct negotiations, but as it is almost impossible for an Arab party to take part in the negotiations without a conference, I have been and I am for a conference. Another thing has to be said: There is talk of different conferences. For the moment we can see differences between the U.S. concepts and the Soviet concepts. Israel is prepared to take part in negotiations which would be opened with a conference which does not have the right to impose a solution, which does not have permission to give a diktat from one side (?to) the others. My impression is that the Jordanians and Egyptians have adopted the same approach, the same attitude. [passage omitted]

[Question] Mr Minister, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will be here in the region again next week. Following this visit, will the Israeli Government have to decide on the U.S. plan for a relaunch of negotiations?

[Peres] We have an extremely interesting situation. Generally, the political world thought there were two answers: Yes or no. But there is a third reply: Not replying is also a reply. For the moment no party is saying no; there is no candidate to say no because if the United States for example stopped its initiative, they would immediately be the first to say no. The Russians are not saying no; the Americans are not saying no; the Jordanians are not saying no; Israel is not saying no. Mr Shultz (?has) perhaps thought he can advance his initiative quite far.

[Question] Mr Shultz recommends a comprehensive solution, that is he considers everything negotiable, all the territories are negotiable. You support Mr Shultz's initiative but you do not consider that all the territories are negotiable. How do you think this contradiction could be resolved?

[Peres] You are seeking a very complicated reply from me. I think negotiations have to be opened and each side has the right to propose anything it wants. I can imagine the Arabs asking for all the territories and I can imagine Israel proposing autonomy. That is what dialogue is, that is where negotiations start. Obviously I do not think you will really find one party which will announce its final position as its initial position. That is the nature of negotiations. If you ask me what would be the permanent, final proposals after the negotiations, on the Arab side or on the Israeli side, I do not know. [passage omitted] In my opinion the most important thing for the moment is to begin the dialogue and change the climate.

[Question] Mr Minister, there is a taboo in your country about the PLO. Why don't you risk breaking with the taboo without binding yourself to that group?

[Peres] In our country one is not allowed to marry two women at the same time: One has to make a choice between the Jordanians and the PLO. If we go with the Jordanians, we have to go with the Jordanians. If we go with the PLO, we have to go with the PLO. But if we go with both at the same time, in my opinion we are going to lose the trust of both. [passage omitted]

[Question] Mr Peres, one has the impression that the Gulf conflict has entered a new phase, that of the war of missiles. Do these missiles worry you? Does the fact that Iraq in particular is using missiles which can reach the heart of Israel pose problems for you?

[Peres] Yes, that poses a problem. First with chemical warheads: Chemical weapons have existed for a very long time but chemical warheads were not really used either in World War I or II.

[Question] Does Israel have a reply to (?these) missiles?

[Peres] I do not want to say something sensational, but if Israel were attacked, in my opinion we have the means to defend ourselves. [passage omitted]

Outlines Solution to Situation

TA251453 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Mar 88 pp 1,2

[Report by parties affairs correspondent Dorit Gefen]

[Excerpts] The Labor Party yesterday almost unanimously (with only one opposition vote) re-elected Shim'on Peres as party chairman and as primary candidate for the 12th Knesset, thus launching the elections campaign. The foreign minister opened his acceptance speech by saying it has been a long time since the Labor Party stood as good a chance to win the elections as now: "No one else has a plan, only we do. The struggle this time will be between the camp which believes in a peaceful solution and the camp which is stuck in the cul-de-sac of the status-quo." [passage omitted]

Peres said Shultz told him he believed the Soviet Union would establish diplomatic relations with Israel on the first day of the international conference. He went on to say that the great intimidation [by the Likud] is aimed at the subject of territories, as if peace was made with territories and not with people, as if it was possible to make a distinction between the people and the territories. He reminded his audience that the Likud was the one to sign an agreement stipulating that the negotiations with our neighbors would be based on Resolutions 242 and 338.

Resolution 242 speaks explicitly of a withdrawal from a territory, albeit not the entire territory. Referring to the political solution, Peres said it lies in the following stages: We will demand that the conference participants establish relations with Israel, and that all parties to the negotiations recognize 242 and 338 as the basis for the negotiations; we will demand a condemnation of terror and violence, and a solution of the Palestinian problem through negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The conference will invite the parties to the negotiations, but the negotiations themselves will be conducted directly by the parties. The interim settlement will transfer the administration of the civilian life from the IDF to the residents, and will charge the IDF with the real responsibility for security. The third stage, the permanent settlement, is the peace settlement with our Jordanian and Palestinian neighbors. This settlement should ensure a mutual respect for life, without concessions on security, and with liberation from occupation. [passage omitted]

Rabin Prepared To Compromise Territory for Peace

TA251228 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that in order to obtain a peace settlement, he is willing to reach a territorial compromise with Jordan so that only two countries—Jordan and Israel—will occupy the territory known as Eretz Yisra'el. No Palestinian state will be established between the two, and under no circumstances will Israel return to the 1967 borders. Rabin also said that even when living with a peace treaty, we must guarantee appropriate security arrangements. Israel's security border must be along the Jordan River, though border adjustments must be made and an answer given to the problem of the 700,000 Palestinians living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Regarding the issue of the territories, Mr Rabin said the security forces will do everything possible to restore calm. The events there must not, however, be linked to any political

initiative for reaching a settlement. Rabin also said he supports the Shultz initiative, because in his opinion it is the only chance for political negotiations.

The defense minister made these remarks in Ramat Aviv at the Moshe Dayan Forum for Political Debates. Our correspondent Meron Tzur brought us this excerpt of the defense minister's remarks.

Sharon Sees Danger of 'All-Out' War With Arabs

TA281154 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] In view of the situation created in the territories, there is a danger of an all-out war with the Arabs resulting from the loss of Israel's deterrent power vis-a-vis the Arab countries, Minister Ari'el Sharon said today.

[Begin recording] There is no doubt that current armament efforts involving missiles, whether with nuclear or chemical warheads, must certainly alert us to what could occur. Any sign of weakness at present would heighten the danger of war. There is of course an additional danger—that of the world's silence, such as when Iraq uses chemical warfare against a civilian population and causes thousands of deaths, and there is total silence everywhere. [end recording]

Minister Sharon made his remarks during a tour of Kefar Tavor, and they were brought to us by our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz.

Status of Shultz' Peace Initiative Analyzed

TA251641 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Mar 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Waiting Game"]

[Text] Jordan, Syria, and Egypt are awaiting the Israeli Government's response to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' proposals on peace in the region. The positions of these countries have centered on mentioning the positive aspects of the U.S. initiative and expressing reservations, without answering with a yes or no until Shamir's clear and specific response becomes evident to them.

The Israeli Government, on its part, has not been able to say yes or no. Whereas the Labor Party has said yes, the Likud has answered no. Thus the Israeli Government was incapable of responding and the world awaited the results of Shamir's visit to Washington. After this they waited for the meeting of the Israeli Inner Cabinet, then came Shamir's recommendation not to adopt a decision before knowing the answers of the Arab parties.

The United States is waiting for Israel's answer, Israel is awaiting the Arab states' decision, and the Arab states are biding their time for Israel's response. The net result of this is that the Arab countries, the United States, and Israel are waiting for a response, but who will provide them with it?

Peres announced his consent for the initiative put forward by Shultz, but he did not ask the Inner Cabinet to vote on the U.S. initiative. Thus he decided to join Shamir in the waiting, and the Israeli unity government united in evasion, and Shamir triumphed.

This is the waiting game. Shultz neither talked about the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination nor their right to choose their representatives. He wanted the international conference to be a mere opening ceremony with the aim of entering into direct bilateral negotiations. He left the issue of the Palestinian people's future vague, using the term legitimate rights, which has no meaning in the lexicon of politics and diplomacy. Despite all this, Israel decided to delay its response.

The Palestinian people, who were mentioned in vague terms in the U.S. initiative, have announced their aspiration for a peace that ensures their legitimate national rights, including the right to self-determination and the right to select their representatives. Naturally, the U.S. Administration ignored this Palestinian aspiration.

Today, amid a climate in which the desire for achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace is absent, the Palestinian people continue to follow and watch this game which lacks the most elementary principles and rules of politics and international relations. The Palestinian people reiterate that real peace does not need further initiatives.

3-Day Curfew Set Throughout West Bank, Gaza

TA281736 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] As of tonight, inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria will not be allowed to leave the territories for 3 days. A curfew will be imposed on the Gaza Strip for the same period of time. These are some of the measures taken by the IDF in anticipation of Land Day. Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David has more details:

The IDF is taking extraordinary precautions on the eve of Land Day, Wednesday, 30 March. As of 0100 tonight, inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will not be allowed to enter Israel's territory for 3 days. In other words, they will not even be allowed to leave for work. A curfew will be imposed on the Gaza Strip as of 2200 tonight. The curfew will remain in effect until Friday, 1 April at 0300. Inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria will not be allowed to leave across the Jordan River bridges; only incoming traffic will be allowed. Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will be declared closed military zones as of tonight.

Civilians will not be allowed to enter these areas, and journalists will have to coordinate their entry with the IDF spokesman, who will issue a report about events in the areas every evening. Inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria will not be allowed to move from one place to another in those areas. Inhabitants of the territories, both Jews and Arabs, will be allowed to get home. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT notes that "Arab inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria will only be allowed to move freely within the area where they live, but not from one area to another or from the territories into the boundaries of the Green Line." The report also notes that "Jewish inhabitants will be allowed to move about freely."]

These measures, almost unprecedented, along with the reinforcement of IDF troops in the territories, are designed to maintain law, order, and quiet during this week. They are meant to reflect the IDF's determination to prevent any riots, an official military source said. The decision to effect these measures was approved by the most senior levels, and a military source said the possibility that their continued enforcement in the future should not be ruled out.

Rabin Announces Measures

TA281812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin tonight announced a series of measures the security forces will take regarding Land Day. He made the remarks at a party forum at Kefar Hamaccabiah. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports from there:

[Begin recording] [Eshel] Beginning at midnight tonight the territories will be totally cut off for 3 days, the defense minister said: The day before Land Day, Land Day, and the day after.

[Rabin] Any person not living in the area will be banned from entering except for those receiving special permission. The media will face additional obstacles in entering the areas. This is a result of our desire to declare: You decided on Land Day, so let's confront each other and see who is stronger. Second, to separate the territories from Israeli Arabs 1 day before Land Day, on Land Day, and a day later. We will see what happens after that. We will take a number of internal steps aimed at instituting controls, checking licenses, papers, and so forth, and tell the people: these measures are being taken for security reasons. But remember: All in all, we have not exhausted all our possibilities.

[Eshel] We are doing our best, Yitzhaq Rabin said, but there is a lot to be done.

Referring to Minister Ari'el Sharon, he added:

[Rabin] I know there are those who are sure they have the best solutions and can solve things in 1 day. I would like to remind several of them that we entered the war in Lebanon in an operation that was to have taken between 2 and 4 days. The war has lasted 6 years; in June it will be 6 years. Did we rid ourselves of terrorism from Lebanon? Since 9 December, five IDF soldiers lost their lives in the war against terrorism from Lebanon. One Israeli soldier lost his life as a result of the events in the territories. [end recording]

Says Measures 'Test' for Future

TA290557 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he hopes there will be no violence either in the territories or among Israel's Arabs in connection with Land Day. He stressed Israel would take whatever steps necessary to make it crystal clear that it is prepared to deal with any violence. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami asked the defense minister why he felt it necessary to close the territories for such a long period, when Land Day was only 1 day.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] Well, I believe in case the extreme elements of the PLO and other instigators use Land Day, the coming visit of Secretary Shultz, Passover, and the Day of Independence to increase violence in the territories. We want to signal very clearly that we are not going to hesitate to use whatever measures, within the framework of the law, to make it clear that violence will never gain.

[Ben-'Ami] You do not feel these steps are perhaps a little too drastic?

[Rabin] Well, after all, what is so drastic? Bearing in mind that for over 3 months we have seen attempts to bring about violence and disrupt the daily and basic services of the municipalities and other services that interfere in the Palestinian way of life in the territories. We would like to achieve our goal: tranquillity and functioning of all the daily services for the Palestinian population.

[Ben-'Ami] You said one of the reasons for taking this action was the possible new violence as a result of Mr Shultz' visit next week. Does this mean that such steps may continue into next week, or be taken again?

[Rabin] I can't say, but I believe the first test is Land Day, and I am sure once we manage to overcome any attempt to disrupt the situation in the territories, it will serve as a signal not to do it again later on. [end recording]

Leaders View Closure

TA290631 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Report by military correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] The Ground Forces Command marked its 4th anniversary last night with a gathering of regular servicemen and officers in Tel Aviv. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, and former defense minister Moshe Arens all participated in the event.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said at the meeting: We know that many of the Ground Forces soldiers are currently required to engage in activity they are unaccustomed to, but I am sure that all those involved in handling routine security matters in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are also aware that the operations they are carrying out in accordance with IDF orders and on a government mission are important, vital, and just as necessary as those they had trained for for years.

At the end of the meeting, he told reporters: The closure of the territories is a necessary step.

[Begin Shamir recording] There is a first time for everything, and this is the first time such a step has been implemented. I believe those responsible for security carefully studied this move and found it essential in order to guarantee security. [end recording]

In contrast with arguments that have been voiced recently, the IDF is not suffering a reduction in its deterrent power, the prime minister emphasized:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I believe there are no problems, although some people—and I mean the Arabs—mistakenly believe that this deterrent power has suffered a setback. Well, I think they are wrong; the IDF still enjoys the same deterrent capability, and I can only hope that the need to prove it will never arise.

[Menashe] Mr Prime Minister, on the advent of Land Day, have you anything to tell the Israeli Arabs?

[Shamir] I believe they must know and understand that they must ensure that this day passes peacefully and quietly, and must refrain from violating the order or harming the peaceful coexistence we are all interested in. If they refuse to heed this call, they will be the first to suffer.

[Menashe] Do you distinguish between the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el and those residing in the territories?

[Shamir] That depends on the context and on their behavior. We react to the conduct shown by all the components and elements involved. [end recording]

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the reporters at the end of the rally: It is quite possible that the combination of Land Day, Shultz' visit, Passover, and the upcoming Independence Day celebrations will prompt elements who are opposed to the Shultz initiative and want to take advantage of Land Day to take action against us.

[Begin Rabin recording] Therefore we thought—or at least I did, because as defense minister I am responsible for this matter—it would be wise to employ maximum measures to make it unambiguously clear that in the event of a conflict or an attempted confrontation, we will be fully prepared. [end recording]

The defense minister urged the Arabs of Israel, as Israeli citizens, to maintain the tradition that has prevailed for the past 40 years and preserve peaceful coexistence. He called on them not to be dragged along by the agitators who want to sabotage the fabric of relations that has been built during these 40 years.

[Begin Rabin recording] I can sympathize with their sentiments regarding events in the territories. They would be well advised, however, to encourage the inhabitants of the territories to reach the simple conclusion that the solution to the problem of peace along our eastern border, the solution to the Palestinian problem, can only be achieved through political negotiations. Violence will only bring them difficulties and suffering. It is high time they grew up and turned their backs on their leaders, who—beginning with Hajj Amin al-Husayni, through Ahmad Shuqayri, down to Yasir 'Arafat—have inflicted upon them blow after blow, leading them out of the frying pan and into the fire since 1947. All these leaders wrought disaster upon the Palestinian people. [end recording]

Later, the defense minister referred to the implications of the closure of the territories to the media:

[Begin Rabin recording] We proclaimed the territories a closed military zone, thereby sending a clear message to all those who should not be traveling along the roads in those areas, or whose travel along those routes is not vital, or whose movement should be restricted for various reasons. The IDF spokesman will take the necessary steps to allow a pool of media representatives to visit the areas to report on the events, with the hope that there will be nothing to report. [end recording]

Chief of Staff Lt Gen Dan Shomron said: The IDF may close off areas for longer periods, if it finds this move necessary. He noted that he does not believe that the measures employed are too harsh. We are well aware of the Arabs' preparations for Land Day and their attempts to create centers of rioting and violence to capture more headlines. Therefore, in the absence of any other alternative and out of security considerations, we decided to close off the territories. The longer the riots continue, the

harsher the measures we will employ, although we hope we will not be forced to resort to these measures. At the same time, we will always allow those who want to live in peace and quiet to do so.

The chief of staff emphasized that the closure of the Jordan River bridges will only be effective for 3 days. It is not in our interest to close them. The IDF, he added, must secure relative quiet and will invest all it takes to obtain that. Right now, there are people who still hope peace will be restored, while others want the prevailing state of affairs to continue; both these streams exist.

Shamir: End May Justify Means

TA291200 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Touring the town of Ramla today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the closure of the territories was a necessary measure. He emphasized that this measure was temporary. In a news conference held by Mr Shamir in Ramla, he was asked about the criticism leveled at the closure of the territories. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports from Ramla:

[Begin recording] [Eshel] The Land Day strike is the initiative of some radical elements, says the prime minister. He expresses the hope that others will not be swept away by these elements.

[Shamir] There is no objective justification for this. The decision to stage a strike is the expression of a desire to create unnecessary and artificial tension. I hope the great majority of the population will not be carried away by these negative elements.

[Eshel] In a conversation with reporters, the prime minister was asked about the criticism leveled at the closure of the territories on Land Day.

[Shamir] Well, the means are not important, the main thing is the goal. And the goal is for these days to pass as all others should, in order and in peace, without any disturbances. If this happens, no one will complain about the means, and if somebody does, we will know that the achievement of the end justified the means.

[Eshel] As to closing the territories to the media, Shamir said no situation will arise that will call for the reports from the territories to be distorted. [end recording]

Warns Against Test of Strength

TA281329 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Mar 88 pp Ia, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Excerpt] "If Israeli Arabs do not wise up, things will get tough and there will be a lot of suffering. I hope the Arabs will not test our strength on Land Day. We know they have some wise people. I have no regrets. A test of strength between us and them would be like a test of strength between an elephant and a flea," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told MA'ARIV prior to Wednesday's Land Day. The prime minister said that RAKAH has a deliberate policy of making extremism worse and coordinating its moves with the PLO. The Arabs receive encouragement from the current spirit in the Arab world and the defeatist statements among Israelis. The Arabs' imagination doubles and redoubles these things. They think they are witnessing Israel's destruction as though the days of Salah Al-Din have returned. Their disappointment will be very bitter. There are camps of peace in Israel only. In the Arab world there is not a single group that even closely resembles a camp of peace." [passage omitted]

IDF Spokesman Clarifies Curfew

TA282121 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] This evening the IDF spokesman issued clarifications regarding the closure of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza according to the order which will be in effect from tonight until Friday morning. According to the order, Arab inhabitants of the territories will not be allowed to leave these areas for Israel and overseas, or even to cross over the Jordan River bridges. Entry into Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will be absolutely banned to Israelis, except for those who reside there permanently or who received a permit to enter these areas. The ban will also apply to Israeli hikers. Any Israelis who do not fall within these categories must leave the territories at once.

The IDF spokesman also wishes to clarify that Israelis and Arabs will be able to move through Judaea and Samaria according to the decision of the commanders in the field. A 3-day curfew has been imposed on the Gaza Strip. The IDF spokesman also wishes to announce that access to the territories through the Jordan River bridges is unimpeded.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

IDF Denies Expanding Punishment

TA281427 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Several left-wing Knesset members [MK] claim that the IDF has expanded collective punishment in the territories, closing down pharmacies, bakeries, and grocery shops. MK's Sarid and Zucker of the Citizens' Rights Movement called on the defense minister not to take such actions. MK Haya Grossman of MAPAM claims that the IDF is preventing laborers returning from work in Israel from taking home food they receive from their employers. According to her, this is reminiscent of terrible methods used elsewhere in the past.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that the IDF knows nothing about such incidents and has not received any complaints to this effect.

Soldiers Sentenced for Actions

TA290841 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Two soldiers have been convicted for their involvement in the bulldozer affair [an attempt to bury Arabs alive in sand]. Private Ya'ir Nisimi was given a 7-month prison term plus a 7-month suspended sentence; and Private Dror Segen-Kohen was given a 4-month sentence and a 6-month suspended sentence. [passage omitted]

Effects of Blockade Viewed

TA271459 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Mar 88 pp 1, 13

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Excerpts] The 33-day blockade of Qabatiyah has thrown that West Bank village back in time hundreds of years. In the absence of running water, rain wells dug hundreds of years ago are used. In the absence of electricity and cooking gas, many of the village residents cook over improvised tin ranges, using twigs for firewood. In the absence of nearby medical aid, they use medicinal herbs.

The village of Qabatiyah, where the collaborator Muhammad al-'Ayyad was liquidated after he opened fire on demonstrators besieging his house, murdering two of them and then being murdered himself by the enraged crowd, is the place the authorities imposed the harshest and the longest punishment in the 4 months of the uprising in the territories. As such, it can serve as an example of the punitive measures to be expected in the future in other locations. These measures couple economic sanctions with extensive arrests. They attempt to exert prolonged pressure. Yet despite all this, if we are to judge according to the Qabatiyah residents' morale, they remain staunch supporters of the uprising. Most of them feel no compunction at having murdered the "agent," as they call him. Despite the punitive measures and the pressure, despite the fact that the majority of the village youths are under detention, hundreds of women and children were out in the village streets last Monday, the Karamah Day, to demonstrate and protest. The IDF needed a helicopter and a large quantity of tear gas to quell the demonstration.

Access to Qabatiyah is possible only if one moves stealthily, along winding routes, far from the probing eyes of the soldiers. Each day a small delivery of food arrives from the neighboring villages. Last weekend we joined a tractor which towed a cart with chemical fertilizer for camouflage. Hidden underneath, the cart contained a few chickens, bags with fruit and vegetables, and other staples. This is the only way to bring supplies into the village, all the other routes are blocked by IDF barriers. There is no coming in or going out. [passage omitted]

The Qabatiyah residents, so it seems, are not perturbed by the prolonged blockade. "We do not break so fast," we are told by a 35-year-old man who takes us on a tour of the village alleys. "We have a year's supply of food. There is flour, oil, rice, and lentils. We have goats and sheep to prepare cheese, and there is a lot of mutual assistance between the people. If they think that all these measures are going to break us, they are wrong. The intifada continues, and will do so in the future."

Military Source on New Measures

TA281825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] The uprising in the territories was expressed by a general strike today which actually brought activity to a standstill. Mild disturbances occurred today in several places in the territories. Rioters were dispersed with tear gas in the Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah. In the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp a local resident was wounded by shots fired by IDF soldiers after stone-throwing rioters slightly wounded IDF forces. Rioters were dispersed with tear gas in the village of Silwad. At noon, an IDF officer on the scene showed journalists an order closing the zone until Friday morning. The IDF did not conduct many patrols in the territories today in order to reduce friction with the population. Reinforced troops were getting ready today to enforce the harsh measures adopted by the defense establishment in anticipation of Land Day.

A military source said tonight that most of the agitators and activists who organized the riots have been arrested. According to him, the impact of the sweeping arrests is noticeable in the field, and the arrests will continue according to security requirements. He emphasized that prison conditions are fair and are subjected to daily inspection by International Red Cross personnel.

The military source added that the defense establishment would contemplate the continued closure of the territories even after Land Day. According to him, additional measures—such as cutting off telephone lines—would continue to be enforced according to the needs of the defense establishment as part of its actions to prevent further rioting in the territories.

'Wave of Detentions' Continues

TA290534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] The wave of detentions in the territories is continuing according to lists drawn up in advance. More than 600 detainees were registered at the Qezi'ot detention center last night, including 120 administrative detainees who are being held for 6 months.

'Akko Print Shop Closed

TA290622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] A printing house in old 'Akko where pamphlets were printed for Land Day was closed last night. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that policemen arrived at the place, detained two employees, and confiscated the pamphlets.

Shops Closed in West Bank

TA290817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] The IDF closed all the shops that opened in Judaea and Samaria this morning, but told the shopowners they may open their businesses this afternoon. Our correspondent Moti Amir points out that government offices and municipalities in Judaea and Samaria are operating normally today.

As a result of the closure imposed on the territories, no workers left for work inside the Green Line today.

Gaza is under curfew, and overseas telephone lines have been disconnected.

2,000 Housing Units Promised

TA281414 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] David Levi, deputy prime minister and minister of construction and housing, toured Qiryat Arba' and Hebron today. Levi reiterated his promise that some 2,000 housing units would be built in Judaea and Samaria this year. In his opinion, the riots of the last few months are over; consequently there is no reason to change policy or plans because of them.

[Begin Levi recording] The wave of riots will die down. Anybody entertaining the illusion that it will not, will ultimately be swept away with that wave far beyond the port of Yafo. [end recording]

Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat heard Minister Levi's remarks during a tour of Qiryat Arba' and Hebron today.

5 Visas Requested From Moscow for Delegation

TA251519 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Mar 88 p 2

[Report by political affairs correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Israel has applied to the Soviet Union for five entry visas for its consular delegation members. The request was submitted though the Embassy of the Netherlands in Moscow. This embassy has represented Israel's interests in the Soviet Union since relations between the two countries were severed.

Israel wishes to dispatch a consular delegation in accordance with the Soviet official statement 2 months ago that the Soviet Union would permit such a visit. A Soviet consular delegation has been staying in Israel for the last 9 months, and some of its members are officials in the Soviet Foreign Ministry's political division.

In order to avoid the impression that the Israeli delegation would be on the level of senior officials, thus possibly angering the Kremlin authorities, it was decided in Israel that the delegation would be headed by two junior diplomats: Meron Gordon of the Israeli Embassy in Rome and Dani Meggido of the Israeli Embassy in the Hague. Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem expressed the hope that Moscow would grant the visas without any delays or postponements, and that the delegation would be able to leave next month.

Defense Minister Approves Naval Procurement Plan

TA271825 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The Israeli Navy's procurement plan was approved today by the defense minister. Negotiations with American and German shipyards for the construction of the new submarines and Saar-5 missile boats for the navy will start soon. Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David reports:

The defense minister's decision was made following the Tal committee's recommendations which were approved by the chief of staff last week. The project will cost more than $1 billion, spread over a period of 10 years, and will be entirely financed out of U.S. aid funds. The Saar-5 missile boats will be built in the United States. The submarines will be built in Germany because the Americans have stopped manufacturing submarines with diesel engines. There is a possibility that one of the new submarines may be built in Israel. [passage omitted]

Parallel to purchasing the Saar-5, the navy will continue to upgrade the Saar-4 which will remain its major warship. As noted, negotiations will start soon while supply will begin in the mid-1990's.

Poll Shows Rabin's Popularity Up, Peres' Down

TA281237 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Mar 88 pp 1, 7

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's prestige has risen since the disturbances in the territories erupted last December, and today he is the most popular of the senior ministers. This transpires from a PORI Institute poll conducted for HA'ARETZ between 6 and 10 March.

Some 58.1 percent of the interviewees are satisfied with the performance of Rabin as defense minister, in comparison with 50.9 percent who were satisfied with him in December 1987 (HA'ARETZ Dec 28, 1987)—a rise of 7.2 percent.

On the other hand, there has been a drop in the number of those satisfied with Shim'on Peres, foreign minister and vice prime minister. In December 1987, 44.3 percent were satisfied with Shim'on Peres, as compared with 37.8 at present—a drop of 6.5 percent.

The prestige of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has risen by 2.7 percent, from 29.3 percent who were satisfied with him last December to 32 percent who expressed satisfaction with his performance during the week of the poll, prior to his visit in the United States.

There has also been a slight increase in the popularity of Minister Ari'el Sharon, from 30.4 percent who were satisfied with him in January [as published] to 33.1 percent at present.

Finance Minister Moshe Nisim is maintaining his high popularity, with 53.4 percent satisfied with his performance as finance minister.

The poll included a representative sample of 1,200 men and women who were interviewed all over the country.

France-Iran Deal on Hostages 'Under Way'

TA260529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] A Lebanese magazine says that a deal is under way between France and Iran that could lead to the release of some of the French hostages held in Lebanon. AL-SHIRA' quoted diplomatic sources as saying that the release would take place soon. The magazine was the first to report the 1986 U.S.-Iranian arms for hostages deal.

'Secret Contacts' Held

NC290703 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Excerpt] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, an Iranian official arrived in West Beirut in the past few hours for what seems to be an attempt to release three Frenchmen. Meanwhile, French Minister of Interior Charles Pasqua interrupted his African tour to return to France. Informed sources do not rule out the possibility of a link between this and the hostage issue. We begin with information reported by our correspondent Nabil Braks.

[Begin Braks recording] The issue of the hostages returned to the forefront of the news once again, this time by the French. According to information we received this morning, there are secret contacts between Paris, Tehran, and Beirut to release a number of French hostages. An Iranian envoy has begun a secret visit to Beirut, where he is currently meeting with the kidnappers to prepare the release of three Frenchmen—namely, Marcel Carton, Jean-Paul Kauffmann, and Marcel Fontaine. These three hostages were moved to another location the day before yesterday.

According to sources in the Beirut's southern suburb, the French-Iranian contacts have made considerable progress over the past few days concerning the release of the hostages.

As for the U.S. hostage, Da'ud Da'ud, chairman of the Amal Movement Executive Committee, has stated to General Haegglund, UNIFIL commander in the south, that Higgins is still in the south, specifically in Jibshit township, a Hizballah stronghold. According to Da'ud, it is impossible to infiltrate the town. This is all the information we have. [end recording].

We would like to note that French Minister of Interior Charles Pasqua interrupted his African tour and returned to Paris. He denied that his return has anything to do with private negotiations to release three French hostages held in Lebanon. However, he told journalists: You are not obliged to believe me. [passage omitted]

Leaders React to Reports of Iraqi Chemical Use

Fadlallah Cited

LD260919 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Beirut, March 26, IRNA—Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah here Friday strongly condemned Iraqi deployment of toxic chemicals against the civilian population in the Iraqi city Halabjah, north eastern Iraq.

Fadlallah who was leading the Friday mass prayers at Imam Reza (A.S.) Mosque in southern Beirut also criticised the UN Security Council for having remained silent towards Iraqi regime's atrocities.

He praised anti-Zionist struggle of the Muslim Palestinians in occupied territories, and urged Palestinian Muslims to continue their righteous and Islamic struggle and stand aloof of the policy line of the reactionary Arab rulers.

Shams al-Din Condemns 'Silence'

LD261724 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Beirut, March 26, IRNA—The Vice-Chairman of the Supreme Shiite Assembly of Lebanon Allamah Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din condemned here Friday the silence of European, Muslim and Arab states towards the Iraqi regime's dropping of chemical bombs on Halabjah where thousands of people including women and children were martyred last Friday.

Allamah Shams al-Din leading Friday prayers sermons in a mosque in southern Beirut reproached the UN for delaying the commissioning of a panel to investigate the matter and held UN member countries responsible for their silence before the brutal crimes perpetrated by the Ba'thist regime.

Allamah Shams al-Din termed the concluded Islamic Conference in Amman as 'unIslamic' and considered the Saudi stands on hajj pilgrims as being counter to Islamic faith.

Al-Huss on 'Inhuman Measures'

LD262008 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Beirut, March 26, IRNA—Lebanon's acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss Friday condemned the Iraqi regime's inhuman measures and its use of banned chemical weapons.

In a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Beirut Ahmad Dastmalchian who briefed him on the atrocities of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in chemically bombing its own town of Halajbah and firing missiles at Iranian cities, Al-Huss expressed hope that the war of cities would soon end.

Dastmalchian expressed Iran's support for the Palestinian Muslims' uprising and the anti-Zionist struggles of Lebanese mujahidin in southern Lebanon.

The speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Husayn al-Husayni also strongly denounced Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds and its missile attacks on Iranian cities.

Al-Husayni and Dastmalchian had a three hour discussion Thursday on issues concerning Lebanese and Iranian Muslims and the problems they have with international organisations influenced by the world arrogance.

Al-Jumayyil Cables Perez de Cuellar, Haegglund

NC251958 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has called for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, for UN forces to be permitted to fully carry out their mission by deploying up to the internationally recognized borders, for the establishment of international peace and security, and for assistance to the Lebanese Government so it can enforce its authority and sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and make southern Lebanon an area of peace and security. President al-Jumayyil saluted the memory of the UN soldiers who fell as martyrs in the line of international duty and the commitment to achieving of peace.

This came in two cables that President al-Jumayyil has sent to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and UNIFIL Commander General Gustav Haegglund on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of UNIFIL. This anniversary falls tomorrow, Saturday.

Amal Movement Releases 8 Palestinian Detainees

NC252105 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Today, on the anniversary of its establishment, the Amal Movement released eight Palestinian detainees from Burj al-Shamali, Al-Qasimiyah, Al-Buss, and [word indistinct].

In a statement today, the movement called on Palestinian organizations to release all detainees and kidnapped persons.

Damage to Abu Nidal Group's Bases Denied

NC261945 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] A military spokesman of Fatah-Revolutionary Council has commented on remarks attributed by REUTER to a responsible Palestinian source to the effect that the Israeli raids have virtually wiped out most of the bases held by Fatah-Revolutionary Council. The remarks were cited by news agencies and some newspapers.

The Fatah-Revolutionary Council stated: It seems that the so-called responsible Palestinian source acquired his information from suspicious quarters that wish to see our bases destroyed. His information is false, because it merely represents the dreams and wishes of the Zionists, their agents, and those who support them. Their dreams were dashed by the vigilance of our revolutionaries and our fighters.

The spokesman added: In 2 days of Israeli raids, none of our people were hurt, except for two of our female comrades who were martyred while firing their machineguns at the Zionist planes. Our group, which is dedicated to the struggle against world imperialism, the Zionist enemy, and undercover agents, warns the latter of the consequences of their despicable work. Our group calls on the media to be accurate in their reports and to not be misled by people whose knowledge of our bases and strongholds is not much more than that of imperialism and Zionism—in other words, nonexistent.

PLO Official on Israeli Assassination Plans

NC271326 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, left Beirut today after a 2-day visit. [passage omitted]

In statements to journalists prior to his departure, the Palestinian official said Israel is planning to assassinate Palestinian leaders in order to try to divert the ongoing uprising from its course. He added: We are taking the appropriate measures to counter the Israeli plan.

Commenting on Syrian-PLO relations, he said they are progressing slowly. He expressed his beleif that the camps war in Lebanon has ended and will never recur.

Israelis Shell Town; Resistance Attacks Noted

NC280927 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that the enemy's forces have tried to commit a new massacre in the town of Qabrikhak. The artillery of the enemy's forces shelled the town. Seven shells hit the school's courtyard at a time when approximately 150 students and teachers were in the classrooms. Several students were slightly wounded by glass fragments. The occupation forces also shelled the suburbs of Tulin.

In the meantime, resistance fighters continued their operations against the occupation forces. A resistance group detonated an explosive charge this morning when an enemy mechanized patrol was passing the town of Al-Qantarah, destroying a vehicle and killing and wounding its crew.

Another resistance group fired mortar shells at an occupation forces parking lot at the Al-Tayyibah triangle.

Reportage on Visit by YAR Foreign Minister

Arrives With Message 23 Mar

JN231433 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Damascus at 1415 today on a visit to the country. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

In a statement to SANA upon arrival, Dr al-Iryani said he is carrying a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on all issues of interest to both countries.

Meets With Officials

JN241933 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, met in Damascus this morning with Brother Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and the promotion of cooperation in both economic and trade fields.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister met last night with Nasir Qaddur, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs. They discussed bilateral relations and reviewed issues and developments in both Arab and international arenas.

Received by Al-Asad

JN241337 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 mar 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Yemeni Arab Republic, at 1130 today. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs. Dr al-Iryani conveyed to the president a message from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Departs After 2-Day visit

JN241938 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Damascus after a 2-day visit to the country. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, a number of Foreign Ministry senior officials, and the YAR ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

Al-Shar' Returns From ICO Session in Amman

JN251853 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] This evening Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus after leading the Syrian Arab Republic delegation to the 17th ministerial conference of the ICO which concluded its meetings in Amman this afternoon.

Leaves for Meetings in U.S.

JN281846 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Damascus this morning for the United States to take part in the seven-member Arab League committee authorized to contact the governments of the five permanent members of the Security Council in support of the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territoreis and to mass international support for it.

The committee will hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The committee is comprised of the foreign ministers of Syria, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the head of the PLO Political Department, and the Arab League secretary general. [passage ommited]

Army Commander Receives Soviet General Pikalov

JN232116 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Comrade Muhammad Ibrahim al-'Ali, commander of the Popular Army, this morning received General Pikalov, chief of the Soviet Chemical Troops, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, Comrade Muhammad Ibrahim al-'Ali presented a detailed explanation on the development of the Popular Army throughout the past 25 years of the revolution, the situation of this Army, and its development under the historic leadership of struggler leader Hafiz al- Asad.

Gen Pikalov affirmed the importance of reinforcing and strengthening relations between the two friendly countries in all fields under the wise Syrian and Soviet leadership.

Received by Army Official

JN241626 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Damascus, 24 Mar (SANA)—General Hasan Turkumani, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, received here today Gen Pikalov, chief of the Soviet Chemical Troops, and his delegation. Talks during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways to

promote them, particularly regarding boosting the Syrian Armed Forces' combat ability to confront the imperialist-Zionist aggression against the Arab nation. Talks also dealt with the friendly Soviet Union's support for Syria in its just militant stands.

Shultz Visit Comes Amid 'New Realities'
JN270757 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Mar 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Shultz' Forthcoming Tour, Its Realities and Eventualties," AL-THAWRAH says: Any new plan or move that does not proceed from the need to fulfill the following two conditions for a just peace, that of an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights, will be a move in a vacuum and will yield no results. How can the U.S. move succeed if it seeks to bypass the popular uprising in the occupied territories and to extricate Israel from the dilemma?

In this case, one can say the U.S. Administration has not learned from past experience and has not assimilated the lessons and the new realities of the uprising.

The entire world is now dealing with the developments in the region on the basis of the uprising and from the assumption that the Arabs are struggling for justice, freedom, and rights and that Israel is an aggressor and poses a threat to security and peace in the region and the world at large.

Israeli 'Stupid Military Belligerency' Expected
JN260758 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Mar 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel Will Attempt To Export Its Crisis," TISHRIN says:

Israel might once again attempt to export its strangling crisis and resort to a stupid military belligerency. It might resort to an aggresion regardless of its repercussions and burdens. It is natural that the main target of the aggression will be Syria because it is the base for Arab struggle and the supporter of the uprising and our people's struggle in the occupied territory.

Syria is also the center of revolutionary brightness which has ignited the Arab forces of steadfastness and resistance everywhere. Thus, Israel was driven to its crisis and the U.S. plan was driven to an impasse, thereby obstructing the American-Israeli attempts to abort the uprising—an objective for which the U.S. plan was prepared in the first place.

TISHRIN adds: Syria knows full well the American-Israeli intentions and takes into account the possibilities of Israeli belligerency. It also knows the fabricated clamor about the Saudi missiles, Israel's aggressive nature, and the real background of the blatant pretext itself. When Syria frankly announced its stand on Israeli threats to sister Saudi Arabia, it knew full well the background of U.S. collusion with Israel. It also knows the requirements of this big pan-Arab stand.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Issues Messages on National Elections

Message to Nation

LD282126 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 28 Mar 88

["Message of Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, to the people of Afghanistan on the occasion of the start of the Republic of Afghanistan's National Assembly elections"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] In the name of the God; gracious, noble and Muslim people of Afghanistan; dear compatriots, brothers and sisters: Our dear country, heroic Afghanistan, is at the threshold of a notable political event. In these sunny days of the new year of 1367, the people of Afghanistan, for the first time in their history, will conduct elections to the highest legislative organ, the republican National Assembly.

The success of democratic and liberating ideas in our ancient country imbue the heart of every true patriot with happiness and pride. Democratic traditions have characterized Afghan society and only after the April Revolution have they developed and expanded well.

National reconciliation has become the noble ground for the development of the economic and political life and the flourishing of popular sovereignty. The voice of peace, the echoes of which has filled the hearts of millions of our compatriots, is many times stronger than the gold spent by the West on supplying arms which sow death and destruction in our country.

As a result of the sacrificing struggle of patriots, major, popular policies to introduce free government are being introduced, coalition organs of sovereignty and administration are being developed, the peaceful fate of the masses is being comprehensively established in the new constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan. In line with the context and content of these constitutional elections, based on the principle of the right of direct and equal vote, the elections will be held through secret ballot throughout the country.

Elections are the greatest victory of national reconciliation and are the success of the new political policy and of profound human and democratic thoughts. Elections are a manifestation of the implementation of very important principles of a multiparty and coalition system in our new political system. Elections are the new state structure which reflect the fundamental interests of various social classes, strata, and groups of the heterogeneous Afghan society. Elections are the defenitive proof of the popular sovereignty the aim of which is the prosperity of people and a strong peace. Elections are true democracy, democracy in practice.

Esteemed and dear people of Afghanistan, compatriots, call on your respected and noble clergy to participate in the elections. The republican state calls on you to accomplish your national duty through taking part in the elections.

Workers and employees, by voting for your candidates you vote for peace and tranquility in the cities, for new work sites, for the betterment of life and work conditions, for new homes, and for the expansion of social welfare.

Farmers, nomads, and cattle and flock owners, by voting for your candidates you vote for a tranquil life in your villages, a clear sky over your farms and pastures, for lower agricultural prices and new irrigation systems, for agricultural and veterinary aid, for new cooperatives, for new tractors and equipment, for your children and relatives, and for the construction of schools and hospitals and profitable trade.

National entrepreneurs, tradesmen, and businessmen, by voting for your candidates you vote for permanent cooperation with the state, for the fruitful help of the state in solving basic economic goals, for your defense against foreign monopolies, and for various fields of the national economy [as received].

Agricultural engineers and experts, teachers, doctors, writers, and cultural workers, by voting for your candidate you are voting for lasting peace and social progress, for the great role of the proud intellectual in the country and in society, for new unviersities, new institutes, new libraries and laboratories, new galleries and theaters, and finally for the flourishing of your multinational culture.

Generals, officers, NCO's, and soldiers, by voting for your candidates you are voting for our heroic and brave armed forces, for the people's militia and the regional forces of state security, for the political and combat readiness of the army personnel, for rights and concessions for the armed forces personnel, and for the defense of people, the homeland, and your relatives.

Esteemed Ulema and theologians, by voting for your candidates, you are voting for the realization of the sacred ideas of Islam about peace, for peace and tranquillity, for newly built and repaired mosques, for the development of Islamic education, for all-round respect for the esteemed ulema and for the expansion of financial and moral assistance by the state for mosques and sacred places.

Heroic people of Afghanistan, proud boys and girls of the country, by giving your vote to the candidates to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan you are voting for the national reconciliation policy, for a rapid solution to the situation surrounding Afghanistan and inside Afghanistan, for the return of the emigrants to

their ancestral homeland without any obstacles, for an end to foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and for an independent, sovereign, and nonaligned Afghanistan.

May the elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan be successful.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Message to Opposition

LD281857 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, 28 Mar (BAKHTAR)—Message from Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, to the opposition leaders on the occasion of the upcoming elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate;

Leaders of opposition;

We address you once again on the fate of Afghanistan's people, who have suffered from the war for 9 years. Your aim is to take part in running the country. Our popular government offers you ministries and other high posts. We ask all to think about our people, children and the future of our country. That is why the government discussed the idea of a national reconciliation policy and expressed its wishes for peace based on a nationwide demand. Ask yourselves why the fratricidal war should be continued? Why should the war weaken our people every day? Why should it make children orphans and make women widows. The war should end soon. Plant a tree and lay a stone in the foundation of the peace and tranquility and for the prosperity of the people of the country. We have discussed many constructive proposals and are ready to take further steps for the sake of peace.

We address you on the occasion of the upcoming elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan. We can jointly fulfill your proposals concerning the formation of a coalition government. Do not miss this historical chance. Some of your farsighted colleagues have made their choice in the interests of peace, and do not regret this.

You should not stand by the side of those people who have impure wishes about our country. The ruling circles in Pakistan have discussed the so-called Durand line and the question of a transitional government, through which they want to impose the issue of a Durand line on the people of Afghanistan—an issue which is outside the Geneva talks agenda. Do you want to stand next to them? How are you going to answer history, the homeland and the people?

It is our joint duty to make decisions based on convenience for the prosperity and welfare of the long-suffering people of Afghanistan and for the sake of future generation. If you do not use this possibility to establish a lasting peace and tranquility in the ancient land of Afghanistan, history will not forgive you.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Car Bomb Kills 4 Soviet Advisers in Kabul 27 Mar

BK291003 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Islamabad, March 29 (AFP)—A car bomb exploded in a busy commercial district of Kabul at the weekend, killing at least five people, including four Soviet advisers, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

The diplomats quoted traders in the Afghan capital as saying that the car bomb exploded shortly before noon Sunday [27 March] in a busy Kabul street frequented by Soviet nationals and Westerners. The traders said at least five people, including four Soviet advisers, were killed in the blast. The bomb was planted inside a jeep.

Kabul was rocked by a series of similar explosions almost daily last week, the diplomats quoted the sources in the Afghan capital as saying. The sources also said that the Afghan Government was trying to recruit at least 20,000 auxiliary troops to provide security in the capital following the expected withdrawal of Loviet troops from Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Reportedly Receive Anti-Tank Missiles

BK290526 Hong Kong AFP in English 0459 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Islamabad, March 29 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin guerrillas received a consignment of Milan anti-tank missiles this month, diplomatic and mujahidin sources said Tuesday. The first delivery involved about 140 of these Franco-German missiles, which are light anti-tank weapons, and about 20 of the guerrillas had undergone training to fire them, the sources added. The missiles were delivered through "a friendly country", the sources added.

The Milan can destroy "any known tank" at a range of 200 metres (yards) the sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Islamabad and Peshawar. The 28.5-kilogramme (67.7-pound) missile can be used by an infantryman or fired from a vehicle. A military specialist said that the missiles were "the equipment which the mujahidin needed to confront tanks used by Soviet and Afghan forces."

The guerrillas already use U.S. ground-to-air Stinger missiles against helicopters and planes. The Milan, the best-selling anti-tank weapon, is used by the armed forces of 37 countries and 220,000 have already been ordered.

Northern Area Receives Separate Commander

OW291141 Tokyo KYODO in English 1116 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Islamabad, March 29 KYODO—The Soviet-backed government in Kabul has placed the entire northern part of Afghanistan under a separate commander, underscoring the efforts being made by the Soviets and Kabul authorities to assign this area a special role in post-withdrawal Afghanistan, western diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The creation of a new military and administrative entity in northern Afghanistan came to light when Afghan Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand inaugurated a new university in Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh Province bordering the Soviet Union on March 19 and later visited the "head office of the representative Council of Ministers from the northern provinces."

While reporting the inauguration of Balkh University, the Afghan media highlighted the presence of General Juma Isak, former commander of Qandahar, who was described as "commander of Northern Operations Headquarters."

Western diplomatic sources said General Juma Isak was reported to be in charge of the Afghan intelligence, Khad, para-military forces known as Sarandoi and Afghan army units, and has no equal in other regions.

Laghman Province Receives Belorussian Aid

LD260637 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 25, BAKHTAR—In the series of direct cooperation of the Krona region of the Belorussian SSR to Laghman Province, a convoy of foodstuffs and consumer goods from that region arrived to Mehtarlam, center of Laghman Province, east of the country on Wednesday. The convoy was consisted of footwear, clothing, blankets, matches, soap, sugar and salt.

During the last Afghan year ended on March 19, 1988 around fifty three thousand pairs of shoes, six thousand and five hundred mattresses, eighty three thousand soap, thirty three tons of salt, two hundred and thirty tons of wheat and one thousand sets of radios and some other gratis aid goods of the Belorussian SSR arrived to Laghman Province which were distributed to the families of the martyrs of the revolution and other deserved families of Laghman Province.

India

Lebanese Group Claims Attack on Alitalia Pilot

NC281453 Paris AFP in English 1434 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Beirut, March 28 (AFP)—An underground group, Cells of the Arab Fighters, said Monday that it carried out an attack on an Italian pilot at Bombay International Airport on Friday. In a statement sent to a foreign news agency here it said it had attacked "a group of Zionist pilots of Alitalia (the Italian national airline) in response to a Zionist and imperialist campaign against the Arab nation." [passage omitted]

"We reiterate our readiness to track down Zionists and their allies everywhere," the statement said. "We call on the Italian authorities to come to reason and to cease to place themselves at the disposal of Zionism and imperialism before it is too late." The Cells of Arab Fighters claimed responsibility for the killings in Lebanon in March 1980 of U.S. citizen, Peter Kilburn, and two Britons, James Patfield and Leigh Douglas. All three had been held hostage. The group also said it started a fire December 31, 1980 at a hotel in Puerto Rico that killed 95.

Member of Abu Nidal Group

BK290855 Hong Kong AFP in English 0833 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Bombay, India, March 29 (AFP)—Police have established that an Arabic-speaking gunman who shot and wounded an Italian pilot here Friday is a member of the Abu Nidal terrorist group, officials said Tuesday. A police spokesman said the gunman shot and wounded Alitalia pilot V. Santeneillo Friday because of the terrorist group's resentment of Italy's Arab policy and not for personal motives as the man had earlier claimed. [passage omitted]

He told police Sunday that he shot the Italian pilot to avenge the death of his parents who were killed 18 months ago in an Alitalia aircrash in Rome. "The man is still sticking to his statement... But we are now sure he belongs to the Palestinian terrorist group," the police spokesman said. He gave no more details of the police investigation. [passage omitted]

"He (the gunman) is well aware of his rights as an international terrorist," the spokesman said. Police revealed the man's links with the terrorist outfit one day after an underground cell of Arab fighters in Lebanon claimed credit for the attack on the Italian pilot. The gunman, who was jailed on Friday for 60 days by a city court, also refuses to speak in any other language than Arabic, the spokesman said.

Party Leaders Deplore Recent Bangladesh Events

BK281620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Leaders of five political parties—Congress-I, CPI-M, Asom Gana Parishad [AGP], All India Anna DMK, and Forward Bloc—have expressed the hope that the people of Bangladesh would be able to assert their right to continue to maintain their plural society. In a statement in New Delhi today, they expressed concern over recent developments in Bangladesh and said the people there would not be swayed by attempts to mislead them and confuse issues. They pointed out that almost all respected leaders of Bangladesh

have characterized the cynical attempt to use religion as a ploy to divert the attention of the people away from the crucial issue of democracy and toward fanning counterfeit popular demands in an attempt to assert hollow claims of legitimacy.

They regretted that an attempt is being made to put the hands of the clock back and revert to the repressive preliberation era. They said the developments of the kind that are envisaged in our neighborhood cannot but have adverse implications for us. The leaders pointed out that the people of Bangladesh are legitimately proud of their nationalism, religious tolerance, and broad humanity. It is therefore regrettable that a government which has a questionable support among the people and which is resorting to every possible means to stifle democracy should thus attempt to alter the basic character of a pluralistic and tolerant society. They regretted that an attempt is being made to subvert some of the finest values of the liberation struggle.

The signatories to the statement are Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, Congress-I; Mr Basudev Acharya, CPI-M; Mr Dinesh Goswami, AGP; Mr Kolenda Velu, All India Anna DMK; and Mr Amar Roy Pradhan, Forward Bloc.

USSR's Petrovskiy Talks With Indian Official

LD261831 Moscow TASS in English 1704 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—Today there was a talk between Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister, and J. Singh, director of the Indian Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. The sides noted the role and responsibility of scientists in strengthening intellectual, moral and ethical factors in international relations, their humanization and formation of principles of a nuclear-free and non-violent world.

Scientists Correct Problem in Satellite Orbit

BK270815 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] A snag which developed in the remote sensing satellite IRS-1A has been successfully overcome by the Indian scientists. The satellite developed some problems when it drifted away from its three-axis stabilization mode. It is now back in the correct orbit. ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] announced in Bangalore yesterday that while carrying out orbit maneuvers some anomalous behavior in the spacecraft's control system was noticed. The spacecraft has resumed regular operation and is ready for imaging after the scientists successfully corrected its drift. The snag will, however, delay by a few days the switching on the two LISS [Linear Imaging Self-Scanning] cameras. The satellite was put into orbit 10 days ago. It has so far completed 125 revolutions in its polar orbit and has taken images of India in nine passes.

2d Set of Cameras Activated

BK281636 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] The Indian space scientists have successfully switched on the second set of linear imaging self-scanning cameras aboard the Indian remote sensing satellite, IRS-1A, now in orbit. This was announced by the Indian Space Research Organization in Bangalore today. It said imageries over the subcontinent were received by the data reception station at Shadnagar near Hyderabad. A series of orbit-trimming maneuvers will be carried out to facilitate the cameras to cover the entire country with a repetitive period of 22 days.

Gandhi Discusses Punjab Situation With Leaders

BK281634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] The prime minister had a wide-ranging exchange of views on the situation in Punjab with several leading intellectuals, political leaders, and journalists in New Delhi this morning. The discussions lasted 3 hours. The prime minister told the meeting that while the Center was taking steps to defuse the situation in Punjab, there would be no let up in the hunt for terrorists. He clarified that the government was not talking with the militants.

Participants said that antisocial elements, criminals, and killers had got mixed up with the terrorists in Punjab. Others pointed out that Pakistan's involvement in Punjab should not be underestimated, especially in the context of the developments taking place on Pakistan's borders.

The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, who also was present, said the government is working out a scheme for more effective policing of the border with Pakistan. Some participants suggested that steps should be taken to rehabilitate Army deserters. In his response, the prime minister said care had to be taken to see that wrong signals were not sent out.

About the November '84 riots, the prime minister was categorical that no senior congressman was involved. Those who took part in the discussions included Mr I.K. Gujral, Mr Harkrishan Singh Surjit, Mr Giri Lal Jain, Mr Satpal Dung, Mr P.N. Haksar, Mrs Amrita Pritam, and the Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray.

Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab

4 Bus Passengers Killed

BK251606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down four bus passengers in Amritsar District late this evening. The Punjab Roadways bus was on its way from Amritsar to

Khem Karan when it was waylaid near Amarkot. The timely arrival of a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] patrol party prevented further killings. The terrorists however escaped.

5 Detainees Released

BK270732 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] The Punjab government has revoked the detention order of five persons arrested under the National Security Act. They are Mr Mokham Singh, Mr Swaran Singh Zaffarwal, Mr Suraj Singh Khalsa, Mr Gursevak Singh, and Mr Pritam Singh. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh three of them have already been released. The release of the other two, Mr Mokham Singh and Mr Gursevak Singh, is under process.

Four persons were shot dead and three others injured by terrorists in two incidents last night. In Kapurthala District, three persons including a father and a son were killed and three others injured when terrorists opened fire in a village under Sultanpur-Lodhi police station. In Gurdaspur District a youth was gunned down by a terrorist in a village near Batala.

'Terrorists' Kill 14 28 Mar

BK200309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] In Punjab, 14 persons were shot dead by terrorists in separate incidents last night. In Amritsar District, terrorists attacked the house of a farmer, Pal Singh, in village Johra Madan under Sarhalli police station, where a marriage was being held. They shot dead 10 persons, including four women and four children. In Kapurthala District, a farmer, Karnail Singh, his son, and brother were gunned down by terrorists in village Sangochla. In Gurdaspur District, a farmer, Ranjit Singh, was shot dead in village Kotlisuratmalian under Dera Baba Nanak police station.

32 Gurkha Activists Arrested in Darjeeling

BK281308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Thirty-two GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists were arrested when police conducted raids in Thung Sung and Dilaram tea gardens of Kurseong Subdivision in Darjeeling hill areas this morning. The activists opened fire and threw bombs at the police party, and the police returned fire in self-defense. No one was injured in the clash. A large quantity of arms and ammunition including 4 pipeguns [homemade guns], 29 bombs, and 5 land mines have been recovered in the raids. The superintendent of police, Darjeeling, told our Kurseong correspondent that the entire area of Darjeeling hills remained peaceful during the last 24 hours.

Five Opposition Parties To Unite by 15 Apr

BK270610 Hong Kong AFP in English 0557 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] New Delhi, March 27 (AFP)—Five Indian opposition parties have decided to bury their ideological differences and unite to offer a viable alternative to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government, newspapers here said Sunday. The five parties were to merge as one group called the National People's Party by April 15 to build up momentum against Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, the INDIAN EXPRESS said.

Leaders of the Janata (People's) Party, Jan Morcha (People's Front), Congress-S, and two splinter groups of the Lok Dal (Masses Party) have agreed to work out a formula to turn public opinion against Mr. Gandhi's government, the EXPRESS quoted Janata Party President Chandra Shekhar as saying. The five-party merger move was seen by observers as a strategy to end a crisis sparked by the Janata Party's decision to merge with one of the two Lok Dal splinter groups, THE STATESMAN daily said.

"A split in Janata Party at this time would do incalculable harm to the image of the entire opposition," THE STATESMAN quoted observers as saying. India's two main communist parties, which rule two Indian states, and the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, which is anathema to the communists and commands considerable influence in the capital, have not announced support for unification so far, politicians here said.

India's tradionally fragmented opposition parties have been trying to use corruption scandals surrounding Mr. Gandhi's three-year-old government—particularly allegations of bribery in a 1.3-billion-dollar defence deal with the Swedish arms firm Bofors—to spur unification. An opposition offensive launched last year has lost much of its sting, as no evidence was produced to back up allegations that senior Congress (I) members had received bribes from Bofors.

Opposition moves, which initially foundered due to ideological differences, have picked up momentum in recent weeks following speculation that Mr. Gandhi was planning to hold a general election before January, when his term expires. India's eight main opposition parties sponsored a nationwide general strike on March 15 aimed at forcing Mr. Gandhi's resignation and early elections. The Congress (I) Party holds 400 seats in Parliament's 544-seat Lower House and rules 18 of India's 25 states. Five states are ruled by the opposition, and two are directly administered by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman.

Briefs

Oil, Gas Find in Tamil Nadu

Oil and gas have been struck in a new well in Tamil Nadu. The ONGC structure is located at Manilam near Tiruvarur in Tanjore District. The oil is flowing at a rate

of 150 barrels a day from a depth of 3,500 meters. The gas flow at present is about 3,000 cubic meters a day. With the latest find, the ONGC Cauvery Basin now produces about 600 barrels of oil every day. [Excerpts] [*BK260801 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Mar 88*]

Iran

Musavi Contacts Counterparts on Gas Bombings

LD281641 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March, 28, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi in separate messages to his counterparts in 20 countries Monday, explained the Iraqi chemical bombardment of the Iranian-liberated town of Halabjah. The premier referring to the Ba'thist regime's audacity to confess its violations of international laws, noted that Baghdad has dared to challenge and trample international regulations concerning its war on the Islamic Republic.

Such an impudent action by the Iraqi regime results from the assurance given to it by international circles that they would not take any measure to prevent the continuation of its crimes, said Musavi's message.

He made it clear that in view of the Iraqi regime's intention to expand its crimes, a decisive reaction by the international community against such crimes especially the deployment of chemical weapons is a global need, because most countries now manufacture these lethal arms.

In case these inhuman chemical weapons become an accepted part of modern warfare, humanity would witness blood-curdling scenarios every now and then, and this is something which today's civilization can ill afford, said Musavi.

The prime minister once again reiterated that in any case Iran's Muslim people are determined to firmly continue their defence against any kind of aggression until the aggressor is punished and justice prevails.

Majlis Speaker on New Wave of Missile Attacks

LD282026 Tehran IRNA in English 2000 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Monday said that the new wave of Iraqi missile and air attacks on Iranian cities is a "new plot" against the Islamic Republic by its enemies.

He said Iran has become aware of this new plot following its access to information obtained from inside Iraq and from other states backing the Baghdad regime in its war against Iran. He added that the missile facilities supplied "in abundance" to the Iraqi regime is the main part of this conspiracy with Tehran, Esfahan and the holy city of Qom being the main targets of enemy missile attacks.

The speaker made the remarks in a television interview after inspecting the missile industries of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in Tehran.

He further stated that the new scheme of Iran's enemies has been designed following the defeat of the U.S. and its allies in the Persian Gulf and after their failure at the U.N. Security Council.

"I think we must get more prepared to foil this plot and a major task to this end is to improve our missile industries," he said. The speaker added that what he had seen during his inspection was by far better than what he had expected. "The steps we have taken in the past month (regarding the missile industries) is as much as those we expected to take in a few months," he added.

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani was also optimistic that with the efforts being taken by Iran's committed and hezbollahi personnel the Islamic Republic would soon become a missile power so that no neighboring country would ever dare to even think about missile attacks against Iran.

The speaker who is also the imam's representative at the Supreme Defence Council, further said that the determining factor in a war is military forces particularly the infantry where he said Iran obviously holds the upper hand. "You can't end a war with missile attacks," he pointed out. The only impact of these attacks by Baghdad, he stressed, is to speed up the death of Saddam Husayn and the defeat of his government.

Elsewhere in the interview, imam's SDC representative said the recent "Val-Fajr-10" operations as well as the Halabjah tragedy has made it all the more clear that the Iraqi people are not with Saddam. "After tolerating the war for eight years, the Iraq people are still with us because they have realised that we want their welfare while the Iraqi rulers are only after their own interests and sovereignty."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visits Missile Factory

NC282144 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1705 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis and the imam's deputy in the Supreme Defense Council, by an unidentified Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, could you tell us the purpose of your visit to the IRGC ordnance industries and your opinion on this subject?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The overall conclusion to be drawn from the current situation is that we are now exposed to a new conspiracy. Their plans against us after their defeat in the Persian Gulf and in the UN Security Council; all the recent incidents, combined with Saddam's mischief making in the cities, the major part of which consists of missile attacks on Tehran, Qom, and Esfahan; the way they planned their propaganda so that other issues are eclipsed by these actions; and the information that we have from within Iraq and from our Iraqi supporters clearly show that we are now exposed to a new plot. The pivotal part of this plot, and its new aspect, is that a great potential in the form of missiles has been placed at Iraq's disposal. We feel we should prepare ourselves more fully in order to destroy this plot and one of our prime methods of preparation is bolstering our missile industries.

My inspection of the departments of the IRGC missile defense unit today is a result of the priority that we give to this issue. Fortunately, what I have seen today far exceeds the information I had received and the expectations I had in this regard. It may be said that the Hezbollahi expert forces who work in these industries are just as interested and want to work as quickly as we do to expand these industries. In fact, from what I have seen, they are even more interested and eager than we are. The progress that this installation has made in 1 month exceeds our expectations by several months. With these accelerated efforts, we expect to attain a missile strength more quickly than we had imagined earlier, so that the very thought of an attack with missiles will be eliminated from our neighbor's minds.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, what do you expect to happen in the continuing missile and aerial attacks by the Iraqi regime on our cities?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The situation will be similar to what it has been in the past. No war can be stopped through missile attacks, and the military forces, particularly the infantry, decide the course of a war. Our superiority in this regard is clear. Perhaps the only effect that will be seen is the demise of Saddam or that the defeat of Iraq may be expedited.

There were some things that we thought would be resolved with time, but now we believe that time may go against us, so we must take pre-emptive measures. Our people feel the same way. Already the Iraqis are showing signs of regret. The first [as heard] damages they have sustained have been from the "Val-Fajr-10" operations and in Halabjah, which proved that the Iraqi nation is not on Saddam's side. Even after enduring a war for 8 years, the Iraqi nation sides with us. They have realized that we are looking after their welfare, but the Iraqi rulers are merely after their own interests and domination.

Majlis Speaker's Son Victim of Toxic Chemicals

LD290612 Tehran IRNA in English 0606 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA—Yaser Hashemi-Rafsanjani, 16, son of Majlis speaker and Amir Mohammadi Kho'iniha, son of the prosecutor general are reportedly among victims of Iraqi toxic chemicals in "Val-Fajr-10" operational region March 25. The two had participated in the operations as student Basij (volunteers) and are now under treatment at a Tehran hospital.

Victims Go Abroad for Treatment

LD290536 Tehran IRNA in English 0520 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA—Twenty-nine chemical bombs victims—women and children—were flown to Austria, West Germany, Switzerland, Britain and New York for medical treatment Tuesday. A 45-year-old female died on the way to the airport here due the severity of her wounds. They are among the people in the Iraqi city Halabjah which was chemically bombed by Iraqi planes on March 18.

'Physicians Without Frontiers' Visit Halabjah

LD260916 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA—A group of foreign physicians and reporters visited the liberated town of Halabjah chemically bombed by Iraqi warplanes on March 17.

One reporter deeply touched by the Iraqi atrocities described the massacre as "brutal" and said that he had never witnessed such catastrophe. The physicians who are members of the organization of "Physicians Without Frontiers" toured the village of Enab and picked up samples of the chemicals. They also visited a hospital in Bakhtaran in which some victims of the chemical raids among them Iraqi POW's are confined.

The correspondent of IL GIORNO daily of Italy told IRNA that the crimes that the Iraqi regime perpetrated in Halabjah were "unprecedented and brutal." He said, he had never witnessed a similar scene before.

UN Team Arrives To Investigate Chemical Attacks

LD280825 Tehran IRNA in English 0716 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Two UN experts arrived here Monday morning to investigate Iraqi deployment of toxic chemicals on the Iraqi Kurdish populated city of Halabjah.

The two, Drs Manuel Dominguez Carmona and James Holger commissioned by the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, will talk to those afflicted and hospitalised in Tehran and also inspect the areas where the toxic substances have been used.

Following the Iraqi chemical bombardment of [words indistinct] organisations and have expressed their condemnation of this gruesome act.

In several similar cases before, UN teams have travelled to Iran to investigate Iraqi use of chemical weapons. In their findings they have verified Iraqi deployment of toxic chemicals.

Visits Chemical Attack Victims

LD282055 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—An expert team despatched to Iran by U.N. Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar to probe the renewed Iraqi use of toxic arms, visited a hospital here today where a large number of victims of the Iraqi chemical bombardment on the Iranian liberated town of Halabjah, are hospitalized.

The chemically-maimed Iraqi Kurds hospitalized in the Iranian capital are mostly women and children who were victims of cyanide and mustard gases used by the Ba'thist regime on Halabjah town, in the northeastern Iraqi province of Al-Sulaymaniyah last week. [passage omitted]

During the probe team's visit, the chemically-maimed Iraqi people strongly protested U.N. silence on the Ba'thist regime's massacre of a large number of Halabjah inhabitants. The U.N. chief's envoys also examined signs of toxic affects on the body of a 20 year old Kurdish woman who had already succumbed to severe injuries.

Reportage on Continuing Ground, Sea, Air Attacks

Lloyds, AFP Cited on Tanker

LD281758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Lloyds of London announced that a Liberian oil tanker, "Golar Kansai," with a capacity of 219,287 tonnes was attacked by speed boats at 1200 local time today in the Persian Gulf. AFP, confirming this report, adds that part of the tanker was set on fire as a result of the attack. However, no one was hurt.

Iraqi Counterattack Repelled

LD280544 Tehran IRNA in English 0536 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—An attempted Iraqi counterattack in "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-4" operational region was fiercely repelled by Muslim forces of Iran Sunday night, said a statement by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps Monday.

Some 300 Iraqis are reported killed or wounded and scores of others captured in the counterattack which employed a battalion from Brigade 238 with the support of a tank company. Meawhile a number of Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers were set on fire and a number of others were seized intact. The Iranians' operations were launched near Darband Khan County Saturday night.

Iraq Bombs Residential Areas

LD280924 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas of the western city of Ilam (Ilam Province) and Kuhdasht (Lorestan Province) today damaging some houses, shops and cars. According to early reports several civilians were martyred and wounded in the raids.

Iraqi Air Raid on Dezful

LD281006 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Iraqi fighter planes bombed residential areas of Dezful, Khuzestan Province at 11:40 hours local time (08:10 GMT) Monday. Several people were martyred or wounded.

2 Iraqi Aircraft Downed 28 Mar

LD281043 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports that the powerful air defense units of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 1029 and 1205 today downed two violating Iraqi aircraft in the "Val Fajr-10" operational zone.

Ground Forces Hit Iraqi Targets

LD281106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] In response to yesterday's missile and air attacks by the criminal Iraqi regime against residential areas of Esfahan and Hamadan, the brave men of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran fired three surface-to-surface missiles at economic and military targets in Mandali and heavily fired with long-range artillery and Katyusha rockets at industrial and military targets in

Basra, Naft Khaneh, Khanaqin, Banmil, Mandali, and 'Ali al-Gharbi from last night to this morning. They inflicted some damage and losses on the enemy.

The IRGC General Staff Command has also announced: In retaliation for the savage and evil deeds of the Zionist regime in Iraq in attacking residential areas of our country, last night and this morning industrial and military centers in Basra, Al-Harithah, Al-'Uzayr, Al-Qurnah, and Qal'at Salih of Iraq were subjected to the heavy and precise artillery fire of the victorious men of the IRGC Ground Forces, which inflicted considerable losses and damage on the enemy.

Communique No 3,155

LD281649 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters flew 13 separate sorties Monday, heavily bombing concentration sites of Iraqi troops and armoured units in the "Val-Fajr-10" operational theater, northeastern Iraq and in Faqqeh, southern sector, said a military communique here today.

The 3155th Joint Staff communique said that all fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on enemy troops.

Two Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the "Val-Fajr-10" operational theater at 10:29 and 12:05 hours local time (06:59 and 08:35 GMT) Monday. The wreckage of one of the planes, a Sukhoi-22 was found with the charred body of its pilot lying beside it.

Iranian long range artillery heavily pounded eco-industrial centers of the Iraqi cities and towns of Basra, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Banmil, Naft Khaneh, Khanaqin and Mandali from Sunday evening to Monday morning, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy.

Meanwhile, three Iranian surface-to-surface missiles were fired at eco-industrial center of the Iraqi town of Mandali by the army's missile unit yesterday.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian naval gunboats intercepted and searched three oil tankers and two cargo ships Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Sunday in support of the navy despite receiving four warnings from foreign warships.

Iran's Muslim combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions throughout the fronts yesterday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

Iranian artillery fire suppressed an Iraqi patrol unit in Sumar region, western sector, and destroyed several enemy light and heavy vehicles along the northwestern sector Sunday, concluded the communique.

Iraq Launches Missiles at Qom

LD281653 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] The Iraqi Zionist regime, in continuation of its atrocities, this afternoon launched several missile attacks on the holy city of Qom. Also this afternoon, planes of the aggressive Iraqi regime attacked the city of Borujerd.

1,000 Casualties in Faqqeh

LD281759 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] The corps of Islam has crushed the enemy's futile effort to infiltrate the positions of Islamic fighters in the Faqqeh region. More than 1,000 Iraqi Zionist troops were either killed or wounded in this operation. A commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during an interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency said: In the wake of the great and epic victories of the fighters of Islam during the "Val-Fajr-10" and "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-4" operations, and in order to recoup the recent defeats of that country's regime and to boost their own morale, the confused Iraqi commanders at 0100 hours this morning dispatched the 1st Mechanized Brigade and a commando brigade of the IV Corps in an attack in the Faqeh region.

He added: The enemy, who also employed elements of the hirelings Monafeqins [Hypocrites] in this attack, suffered heavy losses and casualties within the first hours thanks to the vigilance of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. By 0900 this morning the enemy was totally crushed and more than 1,000 mercenaries of the Iraqi Zionist army and their hireling Monafeqins were either killed or wounded. Thanks to the timely and prompt response of Islam's fighters, a considerable number of the enemy's heavy and medium weapons and equipment were set ablaze and destroyed.

The report adds that the enemy's 49th and 28th Artillery Battalions suffered the greatest losses.

In conclusion, the operational commander added that during these operations the fighters of Islam captured several enemy troops and stressed: The remaining enemy troops were forced to retreat at 0900 hours this morning without gaining any ground. They have retreated to their previous positions.

Tehran Radio Phone-In Program Reviews Year

LD180505 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 17 Mar 88

["In Line With the People, in Step With Officials" phone-in program with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Deputy Prime Minister Tahmaseb Mazaheri, and Deputy Prime Minister Hamid Mirzadeh presented by unidentified moderator]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to the imam of ummah and the resisting ummah, the noble nation which, in the face of pressures, double-dealings, and injustice, continues to resist for Islam. We now present you with this week's "In Line With the People, in Step With Officials" program. [passage omitted] Moreover, this year, Tehran and several other cities, including the religious city of Qom, were targets for missile attacks of the criminal regime ruling Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Friends, dear listeners, as we have already told you, today we have as our dear guests in this week's program Mr Eng Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the popular prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accompanied by a number of his deputies. They are in the studio to reply to your questions. [passage omitted] Mr Eng Tahmasb Mazaheri and Mr Mirzadeh are deputies to Mr Musavi. Greetings to you. Now we ask Mr Musavi, the prime minister, to make a statement. Then we will listen to your questions, for which he will give necessary replies. Please go ahead.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I thank the brothers in the Voice of the Islamic Republic who gave us this opportunity, and thank them for the good programs they present during these sensitive times. [passage omitted] Of course, I cannot talk about all the problems. His holiness the imam has called this year the year of major events. And as you dear people can see, the year is ending with victories, which his holiness calls God's gift. I will confine myself to two or three points in which you, the people, have played the greatest part. I believe that during this year the confrontation of superpowers and their lackey, Saddam, against us holds a deeper meaning than previous years. As the deposed U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger said, in the Persian Gulf the United States intends to tear out the roots of our nation because they feel that if this rising nation succeeds in standing on its feet, and shows the world that its success, then the United States will be unable to safeguard its interests in the world.

If in past years the United States tried to change the content of our revolution, to weaken the revolution, this year it was intent on destroying the revolution. That is why its invasion was a comprehensive, all-embracing invasion. Let us remind ourselves of the eventful days of the Persian Gulf. You, the people, your resistance, your steadfastness, and your morale defeated all these plots. We had no other weapon in this field except but your resistance, your faith. It was this resistance that enabled us to defeat the huge NATO navy in the region. It was your resistance that defeated the alliance of the world of infidelity, to place us in a superior position in the blue waters of the Persian Gulf, the waters from which we were driven out, where for years colonialism ruled. In fact, the nations of the region, the Muslims, lacked any influence. Although its name is the Persian Gulf, in fact of late it was turned into the U.S. Gulf, until our fighters, our nation resisted the expansion of U.S. influence in this region. In fact, it is now under the influence of our nation and Islam. By remembering these events we will realize that our nation by its resistance has left behind a difficult episode, has engaged the superpowers.

Of course, we told the superpowers that they once again made a mistake in this episode. If we compare our situation before and after the arrival of the United States in the Persian Gulf, we will see that our power and foothold in the Persian Gulf is now greater, more solid.

The same is true regarding the war—or missile attacks, of late. Meanwhile, we have also had an economic embargo. Although the question of an economic embargo continues in the Security Council, I want to tell you, dear people, that these talks are mainly psychological warfare. In fact, whatever the global arrogance could do with regard to an arms embargo, it has done it. That is also true of the economic blockade. [passage omitted]

I have received news that these missile attacks and the hardships imposed on us have created greater national unity, bringing the hearts of the people closer in an effort to confront the enemies. Their aim is no longer to oppress a particular class. They intend—as Weinberger said—to tear out the roots of our nation. We will overcome these pressures, as we have done before. [passage omitted]

I believe this preface is enough. I will not take up more time. I will wait for your questions. Of course, the questions are not from a 52-million-strong nation, just a few limited questions can be raised, which as far as possible I will answer.

[Moderator] [passage omitted] Eng Musavi. The major question from our listeners deals with the recent victorious operations and gains by the fighters of Islam. Listeners around the country want to hear what you have to say about this. There was another question, asking if you could explain a few things about the liberated areas—how many people live there, and what does the government of the Islamic Republic plan to do with them?

[Musavi] You asked the most important question of the day. It is significant, and the entire nation is sensitive to it. As you, dear people, hear in the news reports and communiques, these actions were unprecedented, critical, and unique. They were launched in a very sensitive area. As with other major operations of the war, these

moves came by surprise, and dealt a heavy blow to Saddam's regime. Dear people, let me tell you the size of the area that has been liberated. That alone will be enough for you to realize just how much territory has been freed. Our dear fighters are said to have liberated more than 1,000 square km of land. That reflects the magnitude of their accomplishment. Of course, when we remember these operations in the future, we will appreciate how critical their achievement was, given the success of our fighters in crossing obstacles, mountains, and rivers. Clearly, we will appreciate the initiative of our mighty warriors.

This point, that is, the liberation of this area, makes the fall of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province a certainty. That has great political significance. In fact, it will deprive Saddam's regime of control over Iraqi Kurdistan, especially in light of its earlier activities. Let me answer the second part of the question just to describe the breadth of these operations. The current population of the region is estimated at about 100,000 people. As the imam of the ummah said in his message, these people welcomed our fighters warmly, chanting: "God is great." We feel that the political and military results of this work will be very great, and, God willing, will advance step-by-step. I have learned that our sons are on the verge of a far greater victory. They are about to enter the city of Halabjah, and, God willing, we will get that news in the next few hours.

[Moderator] God willing. Thank you. Let's hear a question from another dear listener.

[Listener] I would like to say that we, the nation of Iran, are always present on the scene. We will never make peace with criminals, especially the mercenary rulers of Iraq. We do not want the imposed war. Our slogan is "Neither compromise, nor surrender; war until victory." [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Another listener asked about today's UN Security Council resolution, which once again sides with Iraq. The listener would like to hear the prime minister's opinion on this.

[Musavi] Following Iraq's barbaric raids and missile attacks on our cities, particularly Tehran, a proposal was raised in the Security Council asking that body to express its views on halting the war of the cities. At that time I said that, were the Security Council to approve this proposal, it would come into line with our belief and policies. Its refusal, in contrast, would demonstrate the Council's ill intentions toward the Islamic Republic. Thus far, we have seen the same negative intentions. Instead of discussing the problem, which is one of blatant crime and the massacre of innocent people, the Security Council has once again submitted to pressure applied by the United States and the superpowers. It is pressing us to compromise once more.

They want us to come to terms with a criminal like Saddam, who has committed a great many crimes against our country. On Friday, our nation saw him fire his missiles. The nation protested, blaming us for not responding to Saddam's missiles with a volley of more powerful missiles. Saddam found another excuse to resume his missile assaults. We are being told to make peace with such an individual. We are saying that for the sake of our independence we cannot accept this man and his many crimes. He must be punished.

Today's Security Council statement was yet another move in the interests of the superpowers. It shows its inability to resolve the problem of the war. This position is another explanation for our lack of trust in the Security Council. At least our nation and all officials should conclude that we cannot trust the UN Security Council, which is treating the problem so unfairly and has become a tool in the hands of the superpowers. In accordance with the message from our commander in chief, the imam, to the IRGC commander, we must send our forces to the front to settle the conflict through final victory, God willing. [passage omitted]

[Listener] Could you tell us why more shelters have not been built in southern Tehran? They could be put up in many places but unfortunately, there has been some negligence. The reasons are not clear. If possible, could you give us an explanation of this?

[Moderator] We would like to have your views.

[Mirzadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the martyr-nurturing and heroic ummah of our country. Just as His Excellency Engineer Musavi, our prime minister, stated, toward the end of last year, when Saddam's bombs and missiles—which in reality were the messages, the imposed messages, of global arrogance—were fired against our cities, leading to the cowardly Saddamists' celebrating the martyrdom of pregnant women and infants in civilian regions, in hospitals, and in schools as a stroke of victory, the question of building shelters became an important item on the government's agenda. This matter found a place in a draft bill presented by the government to the Islamic Consultative Assembly. [passage omitted]

We have recently approved a project in the headquarters for support and coordination of the Executive Affairs of bombed areas entitled "The Project for the Construction of Shelters for City Quarters." It will be carried out with the cooperation of the government and the Mobilization Department, and the Islamic councils of mosques and the government will place at the people's disposal and with their cooperation the building materials, facilities, and credit, so that, God willing, we may be able to make localities safer and less vulnerability. This task has now begun, and it is also being carried out in hospitals which did not have shelters.

Next year's budget also makes provisions for the funds needed, and in this last year, more than 10,000 rials were allocated from interest-free government aid for shelter construction, and tens of thousands of tonnes of shafts and cement were allocated for this task. Shelter construction is a long-term program, and we believe that this is beneficial to our cities. It can change the face of our cities while making them safer and more fortified, and can strengthen the resistant morale of the people. It also means that in this way much of our construction work may move forward. For instance, this same question of shelter construction has had the effect of speeding up the construction of the metro in Tehran; this can be effective for the future of Tehran and for the future of our resistance. This task is continuing effectively.

[Moderator] With the (?questions) which were presented to the imam, he ordered the formation of the Advisory Council. In fact, the imam chose one of the country's political currents. In your view—with the clear position the imam has taken—what shape will the economic-political process of the government's work take in the new year [beginning 21 March]?

[Musavi] The imam has always taken the position of defending the oppressed, and the revolution's foundation has been built on the basis of his belief in the power of the people, the faith and belief of the people, and the power of the oppressed. Between the oppressed and the imam, between our people and the imam, there has always existed an unbreakable tie in this regard. [passage omitted] Whenever the imam has felt that, in some situations, something can be done so that the work progresses more rapidly, he has always given guidance. His guidance in the current year [year ending 20 March] will, in my opinion, have a very determining effect on the economic direction of our country. This direction will be a continuation of the deep and broad meaning of his message. In the third section he takes up the direction to be taken by our order, by our revolution, with respect to the oppressed and the inseparability of this direction from the Islamic Revolution's identity, as well as the effect of the oppressed on the course of the revolution. He has always been able to produce an enthusiasm and excitement in all the revolution's faithful and sincere forces.

In the last few months, the guidance that he has given in reply to questions and issues that have arisen, has made us more optimistic with regard to the implementation of the principles of our Constitution, which is based on the Koran and tradition and which has been formulated on the basis of our jurists' judgements. Moreover, it has a clear direction from the point of view of defending the oppressed. In practice, these messages and guidance, and this group, the Advisory Council, which he set up and should begin work, will do away with a great deal of dead wood, particularly some of those bills which can be helpful to the oppressed, the people, and can clarify the economic direction that will be taken by the order. These were in a state of suspension at times. These include foreign trade; the land bill; the bill on provisions and distribution of public necessities; or bills in connection with the battle against bribery and corruption, which were drawn up with the help of the government and the judicial council, and which can bring about a transformation in bureaucracy, paperwork, and administrative corruption. There is the draft bill on rural cooperatives and the draft bill on forests and pastures. The dead-locked bills can be reopened at his command, his guidance, and his clarification of governmental decrees. He provided the basis for judgement. I think now they can come out of their dead-end situation and, God willing, the Majlis and the honorable Council of Guardians and the government can, in this respect, perform fundamental tasks in the third term of the Majlis and in the course of next year [beginning 21 March]

[Moderator] Thank you very much. Our reporter is now talking with the people. [passage omitted]

[Listener] Does the government have a program to restore people's rights with regard to bills which the Council of Guardians has rejected?

[Musavi] These are fundamental and difficult questions. Thank you for these questions. [passage omitted] With regard to the powers of his holiness the imam, it is timely here for me to say that all those bills—which I am not going to list—he referred to are to be given to various ministries to work on. The ministries are to reactivate all these bills which were dropped, doing so with regard to the recent message of his holiness the imam. Maybe their fate will be clarified. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Thank you, Mr Musavi. We have another question from a listener in Zanjan who asked whether the government has any plans for next year to benefit civil servants. I think he means new thoughts.

[Musavi] Our civil servants, who are working in operational fields and are well aware of the government's problems, know that great strides have been taken for them, particularly with regard to the provision of goods. And the government has taken basic steps regarding essential goods. If we take into consideration the fall in prices, and if we see that the government tried to control this part of the people's expenditures, this was also done with regard to the message of his holiness the imam and government executive powers.... [changes thought] All these were efforts at the service of our dear civil servants. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Another listener asks the following question.

[Listener] One of the most important programs which I believe should be placed at the top of the list of government programs is the transformation of the economic system of the country. In this field, I wish to ask two questions: In view of the repeated support of his holiness the imam for the oppressed, particularly in his recent message, the hajj message, and in view of the answers

which his holiness the imam gave to the questions of the minister of labor and the esteemed secretary of the Council of Guardians which he issued regarding government jurisdiction, what basic changes does the government intend to make in the economic system of our country, and in the productive systems, such as oil and agriculture? The second question which I think is important for this year is: What are the government policies in the field of trade relations, both domestic and foreign?

[Moderator] We heard the remarks of a student brother and the expectations that he has from the government. Mr Musavi, would you like to comment on his questions?

[Musavi] This dear brother raises one of the most important issues of our system, namely the changes in the economic system of an order which has come into being as the result of a revolution and which naturally demands that there is a revolutionary change in all aspects of its life on the basis of new values and principles, including in the economic field. In order that the services performed by the revolution are remembered—and when we discuss the need for change in the economic system, we should not imagine that after the revolution there have not been any changes in the economic system of the country—I find it necessary to say a few words about these changes, and then talk about the programs for next year—only a few sentences.

In my view, the revolution has brought about major changes in the economic system of the country. Look at the fiscal policy. Look at national insurance, and also the fact that today about 80 percent of the added value of our industries is in the hands of the government, the industries, which in the past were in the hands of those affiliated to the U.S. regime of the shah, or in the hands of the multinational companies. Also, look at the power the government enjoys in the field of foreign trade, despite the fact that the bill on the nationalization of foreign trade has not been approved. Therefore, when we talk about the need for a change in the economic system, we should bear in mind that some major steps have been taken.

The very establishment of the Foundation of the Oppressed is one of the manifestations of this change. This year the budget of the Foundation of the Oppressed is about 70 billion tumans. This demonstrates the enormous size of this economic institution, which has been taken away from the hands of the satans and the prerevolutionary leeches, and which have been placed in the hands of the nation. Apart from the fact that the brothers working for the foundation have extensive public services and cultural services which are being expanded daily, if they make a profit somewhere, they invest it, for instance, in Ilam, or in other deprived areas. There are other similar plans. This shows that there has been an economic change in our country.

However, as to whether the entire economic system has been changed, whether we have achieved the goals set forth in our Constitution and which embody the slogans of our people, the answer is no, we have not reached that stage yet. We still have a long wasy to go, and everyone should help. In the first instance, the people themselves should be aware and should not give up their slogans in support of the oppressed. They should constantly raise those issues. Fortunately, his holiness the imam has always taken the first step in this field and has provided necessary guidelines, and we should work in this field.

We think that if, on the basis of the powers which his holiness the imam has given to the assembly which decides what is required and can decide on the fate of those important bills which are very critical, the government will be able to take some important steps in changing the economic system. One of those bills is the one on foreign trade, which will have a profound effect upon our foreign policy, our dealings with foreign powers in the future, and upon our destiny and our independence. If that is clarified, we can say that we have laid the legal groundwork for this economic change.

Another bill is the one on distribution—if it is approved, we will be able to do many things—or the labor law, which is about to be discussed in the assembly, which will decide on the issue of overriding necessity, and many other bills. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] The next question is: What is the stage reached by the popular Islamic movement of Palestinian Muslims, and what steps have been taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to support the Islamic Palestinian uprising?

[Musavi] One of the characteristics of that uprising which we have seen, and which some people are trying to hide, is its profound Islamic dimension which is getting stronger. The importance of this uprising lies in the fact that, if this uprising deepens and expands it will have a profound effect upon the destiny of 1 billion Muslims of the world, in view of the sensitivity of all Muslims regarding the fate of Palestine. This is mainly the reason why Zionism and the United States are to frightened of this issue. In the first days, when the uprising started, they thought that the Israeli Government would be able to quell the uprising in 2 or 3 days. However, as we can see, the children, the women, the youths, everyone—on the basis of the same tactics which ensured the victory of our Islamic Revolution—pour into the streets, and the Israeli weapons, the crushing by arms, has lost their power and intimidation, and the people move without fear.

We should provide any assistance that we can. This is both a slogan and a conviction. We will provide them every assistance we can on the basis of our position in the world and our capabilities. However, the most important fact is that if we can remain uncompromising, we have rendered the greatest assistance to the Palestinians and

to all the enslaved people of the world, and to the entire Islamic ummah. This is something the United States wishes to deny us. Our uncompromising insistence on our policies and our adherence to our principles are, in fact, the main support for all Muslims of the world. If we compromise in our Islamic slogans in the face of the United States, in the face of the East and the West, we will certainly have delivered the biggest and deadliest blows to the Palestinian movements: The opposite is true if we remain steadfast. Therefore, while we provide them with our material and tangible assistance, with our political and cultural assistance, and other kinds of assistance which we can render, I believe that the most important thing we can do for them is for the Islamic Republic and our people to remain steadfast in our adherence to our principles.

[Listener] I would like to ask a question. A Persian proverb says: We add salt to food to preserve it; what happens when the salt smells? I mean, when countries are attacked by bullies, they go to the United Nations or the Security Council to complain; what happens if the United Nations or the Security Council violates the rights of a nation? What is our noble prime minister's answer?

[Musavi] Well, we have come to the conclusion that we should expect nothing from them. Rather, we should rely on the huge might of our nation and its endeavors. International organizations are like platforms on which to speak. We cannot ignore them. However, it would be a historic mistake to expect that the Security Council or the United Nations, which are strongly influenced by the Zionists and major powers, would do anything for our benefit. We should not make such a mistake. Fortunately, our people understand this, but our students are very sensitive toward this issue. We should not be sensitive and we should not expect much from their diplomatic games. Nevertheless, we should say what we want to say, but we should rely on our movement and power inside the country. When nations grow with the growth of Islamic Revolution, our compatriot from Bonab who asked the question will receive the answer to her question. There was no salt to start with, so how could it smell later.

The United Nations was established to safeguard the interests of major powers, or to reduce tension between the East and the West. This is contrary to the interests of the Third World, and the Third World should understand this better than others. Fortunately, our people understand this. We understand this by the Security Council's response to the war. When the enemy was in our territory during the early days of the war, it did not even ask for a cease-fire, but now that the Saddam regime and U.S. interests are threatened, the Security Council is trying to impose a peace upon us. It is even reluctant to condemn the war of the cities, a war which is condemned by all nations and free people of the world. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Our brother has raised a question about the elections. Please Mr Musavi.

[Musavi] I will reply to this question of our sympathetic and revolutionary citizen. First, there are the steps taken by the government to produce confidence. I think that the biggest thing that the government can do to produce confidence in the people is to ensure that when people vote they feel there is calm. [Words indistinct] the government, too, has a great sincerity in removing all obstacles so that the inclination of the people can emerge. The government is doing this and the command that has been given to all supervisors.... [Musavi changes thought] The supervision that is being undertaken by the honourable Council of Guardians and by our entire nation and the uniform participation of the people, which in itself demands this supervision and which produces a sensitivity in this supervision, all naturally has produced a broad sense of confidence at the national level and will do so, God willing, in the future as well.

Second, in connection with the [words indistinct] of the candidates. Fortunately, in our country, standards have undergone such an upheaval that the people now look for people who can serve them in the Majlis. In our order today, people who spend money to buy votes, who, I do not know, try to use their shall we say illegitimate influence in order to affect people such as tribal leaders, headmen, and influential groups that existed before the revolution, these people no longer have a place; there is no place for such people. An attempt to create such a situation would elicit a strong reaction from the people.

The people would feel that a person is using money and illegitimate influence and would show a negative reaction, (?especially) on the basis of the guidelines given by the imam. The people are more aware of the character of people (?close to) themselves, the people who serve them at a national level. I think that naturally they have acquired knowledge about administration, and competent people have developed at a national level for the Majlis. Of course, the chance given for a healthy publicity, which has also been stipulated in the election law, can lead to people making their choice in the final days. We are exactly in this stage. The candidates have registered. After completing certain stages, they began their official electoral activity. They will present themselves to the people and the people, on the basis of their own experiences, can undoubtedly make their own decision in this respect.

[Moderator] Yes. The next question which they have noted and given to me relates to the reconstruction and rebuilding of bombarded areas which, it is said, has an important effect on the continued resistance of the people. What programs have been implemented in this regard and what programs (?will be implemented)

[Musavi] I think it is better that our brother, Mr Mirzadeh, who is responsible for this work, should reply. He can tell the people what programs have been planned.

[Moderator] Please, Mr Mirzadeh.

[Mirzadeh] As you know, for the purpose of reconstructing and rebuilding damaged areas a headquarters has been set up at the Prime Ministry, called the Central Headquarters for Reconstruction and Rebuilding. Different organs and foundations are represented there. The work of rebuilding and reconstruction will be pursued from the commencement of the aerial bombardments until the end when the reconstruction work is finished. In the past year, fortunately, with the help of the government and with the aid that the Hezbollah ummah has given to account Number 222 of the honoured martyr Rajai'e, we have been able to completely reconstruct and rebuild over 56,161 units in the damaged regions and to put them at the disposal of the victims. Also, 36,212 units are in the process of reconstruction. We hope these will be finished within the next 3 months.

As for the units that have been damaged recently, we rapidly open a file. A large amount of damaged or destroyed material is compensated for at a governmental price. This will be turned over to them. On the basis of the regulations of the central headquarters, grants in aid will be given. Of course, these sums have ceilings, being grants in aid. About 40 billion rials will be put in a bank account by way of an interest-free Islamic loan in order to provide employment for the victims and for reconstruction. This will be put at the disposal of the victims in addition to the grants in aid from the government. I must declare here that apart from the 40 billion rials that the banking system has put and will put at the disposal of the vic ns—in other words this is ongoing—the government, in the past year, has helped by giving a sum of over 70 billion rials to victims for reconstruction and rebuilding buildings, whether residential or commercial. By the grace of God, this work will continue with strength and in the new year [beginning 21 March], too, this work will be rapidly pursued. This is one point.

Another point is that in addition to all these, the government serving the people has approved a measure that has to do with insurance against the bombardment of residential and commercial areas in cities. This, in addition to the compensation given for damage, will serve as insurance if people wish to insure their houses against bombardment. It works just like fire insurance, for example. They will be paid up to 1 million tumans damages by way of insurance payment. This can be useful for compensating for damage.

For the replacement of destroyed vehicles, too, we acted in the past year and this year, too, we will open files and act. We hope that help from the people can also strengthen the work of reconstruction and rebuilding.

[Moderator] Thank you very much for your explanation. [passage omitted] I repeat the questions since these are important ones spoken about these days, Mr Mirzadeh and Mr Musavi. One question is about documents lost following destruction of houses by missiles. These are ration books, deeds of ownership for houses and cars, and means of obtaining copies. Another is about methods of rebuilding and how materials are being made available to the public. Lastly, shops such as grocers and provisions suppliers that have been destroyed are going to cause some problems for the people in their locality. How are these going to be taken care of?

[Musavi] I think it is best that Mr Mirzadeh, our brother, answered the above since suitable decisions have been made to provide as much as possible, facilities for our fellow citizens afflicted with tragedy.

[Mirzadeh] As to damaged localities, we immediately set up headquarters close to the sites struck by air raids, comprised of all organs responsible for relief and later for rebuilding and restoration, depending on the scale of the damage received. Following files being drawn up, provincial offices at the governorates that are branches of rebuilding headquarters, sites are inspected and listed. In accordance with procedural codes of the rebuilding headquarters, assessments are made to confirm damages recieved. However, provinces have allocations depending on imports and domestic production for gradual release to provinces and the striken people. Rebuilding is one of the most popularized tasks of the government. That is to say, the state provides means and assistance to the stricken households but, beyond that, supervision is instituted by the state while rebuilding work is done by the people themselves. In some exceptional cases, revolution foundations such as the Housing Foundation and other ministries may directly act in operational phases, but the bulk of the task of rebuilding is done by the people following initial provision of material and allocation of credit.

As for documents such as coupons and books, they can refer to the Economic Mobilization Headquarters where copies are being reissued. Deeds of ownership should be made to local registry offices where various emergency facilities and procedural codes provided should assist them in obtaining copies, God willing.

[Moderator] Does that mean the offices have received circulars about this?

[Mirzadeh] Contingencies have been foreseen but files must be opened and ownership must be confirmed by district headquarters in the form of certificates to be conveyed to registry offices.

[Moderator] We have had a question from a farmer who has asked Engineer Musavi about delayed wheat farmers' bonus not being paid in total in various provinces. He has asked you to order the above be paid and also to make sure that orders for payment of wheat farmers' bonuses and allocations are issued for the next year.

[Musavi] We accept the request made.

[Moderator] Another question about rebuilding matters suggests that in the course of the flood that hit Tehran 8 months ago, damage assessments were received but the City Council has not taken steps to resolve the problems. The caller has requested necessary steps be taken so that housing problems of the floodstricken people be eradicated after 8 months.

[Musavi] Our brothers had contemplated an extensive project that caused some delay. The point I mentioned was with regard to extensive floods in the southern Yazd Province, Bushehr, and Fars. However, I agree with the point made about the above cases, although I have no clear information at this moment. I will pursue the point so that, God willing, the problem of the above brothers may be resolved.

[Moderator] About manufacturing arms for the war effort and reaching self-sufficiency: Questions have been posed on what steps have been taken by the government to confront plots by the enemies of Islam in imposing an arms embargo?

[Musavi] We must truly use the phrase of [words indistinct] in this respect as I have thorough knowledge of the task. I also must convey to our nation the point that if we had not faced the problems we have been enduring, we would not have reached the stage we have now. The truth is that if our pockets were filled with dollars and the world markets were open for us to procure all we needed—weapons, missiles, aircraft, ammunition, and so on—perhaps we would not have achieved the things we have achieved because everything would be available to us freely and easily. In effect, the imposition of restrictions regarding export of arms against us and also the reduction of our foreign exchange earnings, as plotted by our enemies, benefitted us in spite of what they set out to achieve.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and loyalty of our experts, this in reality proved a motivating factor. The acquisition of ammunition, heavy weaponry, missiles, and moves to manufacture aircraft have made great strides. I observed in the media the report of the test flight of the Fajr aircraft by the IRGC, but the foreign mass media considered it a lie and a false report. We ask them to wait and see great numbers of the aircraft gathering around the aggressors like birds blocking the skies once the aircraft is mass-produced. It is then that you will have to admit presence of an expert workforce within the Islamic Republic system and the great strides made by our engineers. In fact, advances made in the task of producing each weapon such as TOW missiles or other missiles in use at the moment have allowed marginal but important findings. For example, when we started work on TOW missiles, taking 2 or 3 years, metals and gyroscopes, various polymers and metal alloys used in insulations have been greatly advanced. Knowledge about importance of polymers used while studying a specific missile raised interest in setting up a research institute devoted to polymers alongside other matters. This center has begun important tasks for the country. The point is not that making a TOW missile or an aircraft, it is the various branches encouraged inside industries, each one of which can assist in our self-reliance in economic terms. Our movement about arms productions must be limited to the war effort only but it must be seen in the framework of molding an independent economy and industry.

I must give this good news to the public: Had we heard about arms and economic embargoes 3 years ago we might have come across serious problems vis-a-vis the war but today we are manufacturing many sensitive items above our own needs and capacity. We have set up a company to promote sales of our surplus production of military goods within our foreign policy framework and inside our boundaries of religious contacts and Islamic relations. God willing, the above company will start to operate soon. This does not mean that we have no needs. I must point out that the backbone and axis of arms manufacturing has been formed in our country.

Furthermore, no other restrictions can be imposed on us effectively, and alongside that our industry has been making advances in leaps and bounds. [passage omitted]

[First listener] I wanted to ask a question. I am a government employee. I wanted to know whether Mr Musavi has any plans with regard to inflation and government salaries.

[Second listener] Excuse me, I wanted to request a thing. Could you please tell the prime minister t of the most important things at times of attac alert siren. Alongside shelter buildings, the ma providing sirens in crowded squares and areas sh definitely atended to because many of the cr squares of the city do not have sirens and people are informed about the red alert situation. As a result, people are exposed to great danger. Thank you very much.

[Third listener] I wanted to raise a question. Every year government bonuses are given, equivalent to 1 month's pay, for workshop and factory workers on the occasion of the new year. Workers receive gifts as well, up to 4,000 or 5,000 tumans. However, white collar workers, that is us, have not received anything this year. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Well, three questions were raised by three listeners of the program. [passage omitted] Please go on.

[Musavi] Yes. The first and third question are about the same issue, the effect that inflation has on the lives of our dear revolutionary workers. [passage omitted] We must note that our holy country, despite the hardships and the great costs that it has borne, is the only country in the world that does not have any debts. This means that at the cost of enduring some hardship, we have laid the

foundation of an economy which, in the future, will be less affected by export-related inflation [as heard], which is imposed from outside the country's borders. Of course, I do not want to say that all inflation is related to this issue. [passage omitted]

In connection with the issue of the siren, I must say that with regard to civil defense, extensive work is being done in the country. In the past year, that is just this current year, the government introduced a bill in Majlis in connection with a civil defense organization. They could plan the issue of sirens and similar matters for the government. However, for various reasons this was not seen to be a good idea and it was not approved. However, these very same duties are now being undertaken by headquarters and the point raised by our dear brother, this point can be used and a siren system can be broadly implemented. Of course, at the moment, as far as I know, radio can play this role and just as our dear city dwellers have seen, particularly in Tehran, sirens have been paid a high level of attention and have been of great assistance to Tehran, Esfahan, and Qom residents, who have been subject to missile attacks.

[Moderator] Yes. In this same connection, Eng Musavi, the placing of sirens in city squares and crowded areas, there was a suggestion about buses which—you spoke about radios—in general, do not have radios. The suggestion was that radios should be provided in buses so that the passengers may be informed about emergencies. This was also suggested by some of the program's listeners.

[Musavi] Yes. Of course, I must add that the many suggestions that arrive at the headquarters come from the dear people, and whatever suggestions our people have, if they give them to the headquarters, I know that the brothers there will welcome these solutions suggested by the people.

[Moderator] Thank you very much. Let us once again return to our reporter colleague. [passage omitted]

[Listener] I have a question to ask Brother Musavi and I hope that he will respond. Regarding houses that have been wrecked by the missile attacks of the Ba'thist regime—my question is the following: The residents of these houses, when they go to find residence somewhere else, are asked by the house owners for deposits. Since these people have no money in hand, what can the government do to help these people? [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Mr Mirzadeh, these questions are raised very often these days. [passage omitted] Can you say what help will be given to the people in this connections.

[Mirzadeh] In connection with finding houses for these dear ones; fortunately, with the help of the Martyrs' Foundation and of various ministries, we now have a number of houses, villas, and apartments at our disposal. These have been designated for the temporary housing of these dear people. Therefore, there is no reason why these people should go to rent places for which they are supposed to pay a deposit. The reconstruction and rebuilding of these residences will also be rapidly pursued. Until the reconstruction work of their houses is finished, they can be sure that we will put these places at their disposal and we will not even ask for rent from them. They should definitely go to the headquarters; the authority responsible for temporary shelter is the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent organization. An adequate number of houses have been put at the disposal of the Red Crescent and we will turn these houses over to these dear ones. When their houses are rebuilt, these residences will be taken back from them. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Eng Musavi. Would you like to give further explanations in this connection?

[Musavi] About the deposits. The issue should be definitely raised with Mr (?Mirza'i) in the headquarters. He will certainly find a solution. It can be solved with the use of the financial system and credit from the banks; I think we can find a solution to this problem.

[Moderator] Thank you very much. The next question: It has been said that in connection with foreign policy it seems that it is not advancing in step with the strength and the revolutionary fervor of the people, especially with regard to the war. Is this not a cause for worry that we should go from a position of political strength to weak, diplomatic bargaining tables?

[Musavi] Of course, this question is a powerful question and as long as this sensitivity exists among our nation, we, in our own foreign policy, will never go from the position of revolutionary strength toward bargaining tables. Foreign policy in our country is strongly affected by the inclinations of our people and by our revolutionary slogans. We have always paid attention to the fact that executive matters sometimes make it advisable to do certain things that are short-term. The protection of people, the warning of people, the alerting of people, has meant that the executive order, in maintaining the principles and in moving on the revolutionary path, has been dictated by the people's ideals, by the ideals of the revolutionary people. The issues that these raise makes the executive more serious in its path and more determined to speed things up.

In connection with the war, in principle, at no time has the idea existed in the executive that a solution can be achieved by way of negotiation because, if we search for the principle of the war that has been imposed on us, if we look for its roots, we come to the root being our nationality [meliyat], just as Weinberger has said. This war cannot approach its end other than by means of the positions of strength and victory of our combatants on the battlefields. Of course, political means have their uses alongside military means.

In practice, political steps or an inclination toward certain aims...[Musavi changes thought] it is in the shadow of our combatants' guns that these political steps

can take place and the principal determining factor is that inclination that our nation, our people, and our combatants demonstrate. I do not think that in our country, in the executive, there exists anyone, anyone in a position of authority and effectiveness who ever has the thought or who imagines that, for example, the United States can realize our rights for us. That right must be taken from the United States just as, at the time of the shah, our nation took it through the revolution. Or else it may be possible for us to take from the arrogant powers what is our right without moving from a position of strength.

[Presenter] Thank you very much. [passage omitted]

[Musavi] Islamic interest-free loans are desirable practices and must be a growing entity under the control of the shari'ah and within the framework of the law issued by the order of the Islamic Republic. In our Islamic Republic system and under our Constitution, banking facilities are exclusively in the hands of the government. Funds for the Islamic interest-free loans and firms to conduct these loans will be breaching their own limits by indulging in banking transactions. Naturally, this must be dealt with. The second point is that we believe there may be cause for concern if a parallel monetary apparatus is formed in the country, since it could be used in political matters and bring about unsuitable tendencies outside the control of the government.

In this regard, our majlis, our government, our Central Bank, and our Interior Ministry must supervise such processes so that formation of a parallel system may be blocked. Turning over large volumes of funds through large economic firms and establishments brings forth political prowess and great economic force affecting elections. This is why Principles 43 and 44 of the Constitution leave the control of mother industries, banks, and others with the Islamic government. This is a point of expediency which is true today and must be observed. [passage omitted]

As a point pertaining to general policies of the government, I must briefly note that we are opposed to the formation of a parallel monetary system for the country. We clearly consider it in direct contravention of the Constitution. We support the Islamic interest-free loans so long as they are within the shari'ah framework and that of our Constitution and current laws. Chaos should be prevented and much care must be taken regarding boards of management. Of course, the public should be the best supervisor. [passage omitted]

[Presenter] Thank you, Eng Musavi. Can you remark on questions about your earlier comments as to the position adopted to realize our rights in confrontation with great powers?

[Musavi] It is the position of strength, the position of combatants, and the position of the blood of our warriors that we should move. That is to say, if we do not get the upper hand—a position born out of our own moves and efforts and that of our combatants—no one will ever grant us anything in this world, and we can not hope for this.

First, we must not accept this since we are a mature nation, an Iranian one. Our Islamic nation will never accept somebody's pity or the pity of the great powers. Rights will be realized from a position of strength, which is the position of our combatants. Outside this, the great powers do not realize rights. Rights must be taken from the clutches of the great powers; that is not possible except from a position of strength. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] A few days ago a budget was submitted to the government for the Foundation of the Oppressed. In your view, how could the foundation be appraised as a supporting factor for the order?

[Musavi] I will mention a few words and I will ask our dear brother Engineer Mazaheri will complete the remarks. The foundation has become a large economic entity in our country as a homogenous entity and as a strong arm of the order in the service of the oppressed. At the start, the grand scales of wealth and diversity of tasks involved seem to be impossible to manage inside the foundation; but what we have witnessed is that strong Hezbollahi state management is holding it together. Today, a great economic firm based on ideology and activity has been formed to serve the lofty aspirations of the Islamic Revolution, be it in the economic performance as a support for the Islamic Revolution order, assistance offered directly to the oppressed, or even cultural activities performed or projects undertaken in the deprived regions. I think Mr Mazaheri should make comparisons between the state budget and that of the Foundation of the Oppressed, which will show the awesome role of the foundation in our national economy.

[Mazaheri] I will comment briefly due to time limitations and also to allow the prime minister to respond to other questions. As mentioned, the foundation was one of the first to be formed following the Islamic Revolution; it was entrusted with the duty of assisting and providing service to the poor and the deprived. In this respect, it has managed its economic units in line with the government and in the framework of the policies of the government.

Further, gains from the above economic units have been used to serve the poor and the deprived. It perhaps can be said that providing service, in a very general manner, is done by providing medical, cultural, and welfare service departments as well as providing funds for a project covering children of martyrs, POW's and MIA's, and also the invalids, alongside contributions toward the war effort. Large sums have been provided by the foundations throughout the years, while during the current year our appraisal shows contributions totalling 2.1 billion tomans, which still does not include further contributions. Last year more than 3.4 billion tomans

was the volume of our contributions and service. The contributions achieved have been the result of turning over an operational and a budgetary total reaching over 60 billion tomans. An additional point is that in many departments the foundation provides services at cost in some cases at subsidized rates, in order to provide further assistance to the poor and the deprived, which reduces profit rates given the turnover of the operations.

However, we believe in providing a healthy service by giving up some [word indistinct] profits. In conclusion, I must thank all the esteemed people who have been assisting the foundation in planning, service, operations, and other fields by guiding us. I hope to continue enjoying the popular support and recommendations of his excellency the prime minister, who is the representative of the Velayat-e Faqih to the foundations, in our duty of serving better. [passage omitted]

[Musavi] These hours are special, the last hours of the year, while people are being kept up to date with news of the advance toward what the imam called the divine shrine. The martial music being played heartens our nation in praising the combatants. In all this, the government was given an opportunity to thank the public for their efforts. [passage omitted] The main line followed by the government is that of the imam and that of the esteemed nation following the imam with devotion and momentum. [passage omitted]

The greatest request of the government of the people, besides the immeasurable assistance provided by the esteemed public, is that of supervision, recommendations, guidance, and suggestions, which strengthen the government of the Islamic Revolution order and the free Islamic system. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Leaders Send Message on Bangladesh National Day

BK260408 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo greeted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury on Bangladesh's national day today. In his message, the president said the fraternal relations between the two countries are based on common history, faith, and perceptions. The prime minister also expressed the hope that the excellent relations between the two brotherly countries will grow further.

Official Cited on Border Clashes With India

BK260930 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu 20 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad, (Special correspondent). The minister of state for defense, Rana Naim Mahmud Khan, has said that at present the situation on the borders is satisfactory and there is no danger from any side. However, firing continues as usual on the Kashmir border. This has been going on for many years. The minister was speaking to the correspondent of HAIDER at a function here today.

Answering a question, he said we have always extended our hand in friendship toward India. We want to have good relations and establish friendship on an equal level with our neighboring countries. But all of our proposals for peace and friendship with India were not responded to in a positive manner. Every time it accused us of making an atom bomb and thus impeded progress.

In reply to another question, he said we are always ready for talks with India and are ready to make any agreement while maintaining our stand.

Editorial on U.S. Move To Close PLO Mission

BK260845 Islamabad The MUSLIM in English 19 Mar 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Deplorable Action"]

[Text] The U.S. decision to press ahead with closing the PLO mission in New York is deplorable, to say the least. It is on this day that the "Anti-Terrorism Bill" passed by Congress will become operative. The US Secretary of State George Shultz has called this a "bad piece" of legislation. Coming at a time when the occupied territories are in the throes of a popular upsurge, the U.S. decision will be viewed as an act against the Palestinian people. This will only strengthen the belief among Palestinians that they can never expect a fair deal from the U.S in their just struggle against Zionism.

Another serious implication of the U.S. legislation is that it interferes with the working and encroaches upon the rights of the United Nations. The PLO was invited by the United Nations to represent the Palestinian people in the world body way back in 1974. According to the agreement which established the United Nations, it is obligatory upon the U.S. to facilitate the entry and functioning of any party invited by the world organisation. The crux of the matter is that the PLO, as its UN envoy said, is accredited to the United Nations and not to the United States. The United States' refusal to respect this accreditation must be condemned.

It has been a great honour for the United States to play host to the United Nations. It has added to America's prestige and image. True, the United States has contributed to the growth of the United Nations in a number of ways. But Washington has clearly got more in return. In any case by ordering the closure of the PLO mission in New York, the U.S. is demanding too great a price for its contribution to the United Nations. The United Nations is now faced with the dilemma whether it can freely discharge its duties in New York in the existing circumstances.

The Arab World's response to this painful episode has been rather muted. It intends to ask the U.S. to also close the Israeli Mission in New York. But this is not enough. The Arab World must show a more meaningful solidarity with the Palestinians. The OIC conference starting in March provides a forum to do this. Instead of adopting perfunctory resolutions and making rehetorical speeches, they must give teeth to their statement by putting the U.S. on notice that if it continued in its anti-Palestinian policy it would face the collective censure of the Islamic world.